



The School Bell



"What we nurture today, flourishes tomorrow"

Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary's,

Fruit of the Spirit for March: Joy

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to Sport Relief last Friday. We had a great time completing the laps of the field in the afternoon. We raised a total of £111.40!

Well done to our Year 5 and 6 football players who attended an inter-schools girls' tournament last week. They were a credit to the school.

Today we have said goodbye to our student teacher Miss Smith from the University of Worcester, who has been working in Green Class this term. We thank her for her hard work and wish her every success in her teaching career and for the future.

Many thanks for your support during this difficult time. As advised by the Government, we will be open only to a minority of children until further notice. In the meantime we will continue to be in touch with updates and have given all children plenty of work to complete at home.

Until we are able to fully re-open, look after yourselves and each other, and we look forward to having everyone back in school as soon as is possible under the circumstances.

Best wishes,

Mr. Milne



Well done Gabby, Amelie, Eva, Ellie, Esme, Millie, Maggie and Evie!



Fruit of the Spirit is for March is... Joy

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'

Romans 15:13



Coronavirus

Keeping You Safe

We understand that you might be worried about coronavirus – also known as COVID-19 – particularly if your child has a long-term health condition. This information sheet from Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) sets out advice and guidance and may be especially relevant to families.

Frequently asked questions

Q: What is the coronavirus (COVID-19)?

A: This is a virus that affects the lungs and therefore people's breathing.

Q: What are the symptoms?

A: The symptoms are:

- A cough
- High temperature
- Difficulty breathing

However, these are similar to lots of other common illnesses. The only way you can be sure if someone has coronavirus is to test them. If you are concerned, please do not take your child to your doctor or pharmacist – stay at home and call NHS 111 for advice.

More information here: nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

Q: What precautions should I take?

A: The advice from the NHS is as follows:

Do

- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds.
- Always wash your hands when you get home or into work or school.
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards.
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.
- Try to limit contact with people if it isn't necessary. More guidance here: nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

Don't

- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.

Q: Does COVID-19 affect children?

A: The evidence to date (20 March 2020) shows that although children do develop COVID-19, very few children will develop a severe infection with COVID-19, whether they are immune-compromised or not. Please remember, though COVID-19 may not affect your child severely, they can pass this onto more vulnerable members of the community.

Q: My child has a long-term health condition, what should I do?

A: For now, it is recommended that you consult the latest NHS guidance on nhs.uk or call NHS 111. Please contact your GP, as you usually would, if there are changes to your child's underlying condition.

News from the PTA

All PTA events have been suspended under the current circumstances. We look forward to supporting the school again when things return to normal.

February Lottery Winners

1st prize £50 Becs Wallis
2nd prize £20 Grace Cooke
3rd prize £10 Dawn Harwood
Congratulations! If you wish to join our lottery please contact Marie Jones
PTAlottery@st-Mary's-pri.hereford.sch.uk

5p Challenge Update

1st Place - Indigo Class, £101.85
2nd Place - Rainbow Class, £76.65
3rd Place - Yellow Class, £44.52
4th Place - Blue Class, £37.65
5th Place - Violet Class, £36.75
6th Place - Orange Class, £24.10
7th Place - Green Class, £17.60
8th Place - Red Class, £17.25

Free School Meals

Is your child in receipt of Free School Meals? If so, we have arranged for our School Kitchen to remain open in a limited capacity. They will be able to provide meals for Free School Meals children, for collection from the school. If you would like to arrange this, please contact the School Office directly to book. **Please note, all primary school children in Reception year, Year 1 and Year 2 in Herefordshire are entitled to school meals through UIFSM. Free School Meals are available to children in other year groups if you or your partner receive benefits.**

Would you like us to confidentially check whether you may be eligible? Please get in touch with Hollie in the School Office for more information.

Hereford Food Bank Appeal

Along with a sudden dramatic reduction in volunteers due to self-isolation protocols, Hereford Food Bank are struggling with food stocks due to shortages and have put out an urgent request for non-perishable goods. If you would like to donate, please get in touch on 01432 352674.

Do you need help?

As a school, we are able to make referrals to Hereford Food Bank. If you are in need, please speak with Hollie in the School Office who is able to support you through the referral process. All requests for support are treated with the strictest confidence.

Brockhampton Court

Brockhampton Court are in urgent need of administrative and hospitality support. Roles include basic admin - answering phones, dealing with post and general enquires and general hospitality such as helping administering dinners, cleaning and supporting residents. Though simple roles, they are vital positions as they help free up time for their health care assistants to work with residents during this period of staff shortages. Can you help? If so, please call Dr Allen at Brockhampton Court on 01989 740239.

Fownhope Medical Centre

Volunteers under 70 who are not at risk are urgently needed to help deliver medication to patients in the community. Either email fownhope.medicalcentre@nhs.net or leave a message with a receptionist

Local Meals

The Greenman and the New Inn have extended their services to offer takeout meals to help assist locals and to ease any unnecessary travel to the supermarkets.

News from the Classes



A little look at what Rainbow, Violet, Indigo, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange and Red classes have been up to so far this term...



Rainbow Class

Rainbow Class have been using their mud kitchen a lot recently and were so excited to see that there is frog spawn in the school pond and we even found two frogs! We have been planting seeds and have been really busy bringing in our recycling from home and putting it in the appropriate recycling bin in school.

Violet Class

In Violet Class we have been trying really hard with our reading and writing. We enjoy playing blending games on the interactive whiteboard as well as writing daily 'super sentences'. On World Book Day we loved reading the rhyming story 'Oi Frog!' and have since produced some excellent writing and illustrations to continue the story. We learnt some dance routines to story songs with Miss Featherstone which we danced to in our pyjamas; that was lots of fun! We have been learning about what makes 3D shapes special and can now give great descriptions of each shape. We gave clues to our friends to guess the shape and made some excellent buildings using wooden blocks and construction straws.



Indigo Class

We have been busy in Indigo Class learning about materials and what they are used for. We have been learning about length in Maths. In English we have been writing independently and using some question marks. We have also been using the suffixes ed, er and est. We have started to cut up fruit ready to make a fruit salad in DT in a few weeks and in Geography we have been drawing maps of the school grounds. In PE we have begun to travel in different ways. We have also been learning about Jewish symbols in RE.

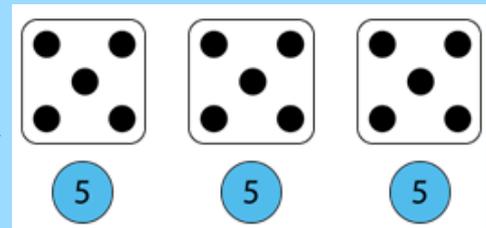
Green Class

In Green Class we have been doing lots of work on money and data handling in Maths. We pretended there were different shops around the classroom and worked out how much money we spent in each one. Then we even calculated how much change we would get if we paid with different amounts- we all thought this was really fun! In our Guided Reading sessions we are still enjoying reading 'Pugs of the Frozen North' together, and wrote some non-chronological reports about the pugs. Our Science lessons have focused on the human body; we have been learning all about bones and made some pasta people which we then labelled with the scientific bone names. Topic lessons have been very interesting too, we now know all about the equator, lines of longitude and latitude, the hemispheres of the Earth and much more!

Blue Class

Blue Class have been making fantastic progress in Maths over the last few weeks. We have been looking at how repeated addition of equal groups is represented by multiplication, so that $5 + 5 + 5 = 3$ lots of $5 = 3 \times 5$.

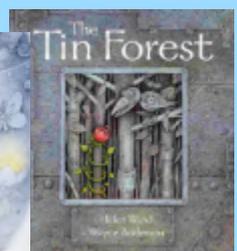
Division is sharing a number into equal groups so that $15 \div 5$ represents 'how many lots of 5 are in 15?' = 15 split into groups of 5 = 3.



Alongside this we are rote learning our 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

In English we have been reading the book *The Tin Forest* by Helen Ward where in the middle of a desolate land, filled with rubbish, lives an old man who does his best to produce something beautiful.

The class have produced some lovely thoughtful writing and we have had some very interesting discussions about our environment. This has linked into our Science work about materials, their properties and what they can be used for. Many thanks for everyone who has sent in a copy of *Fantastic Mr Fox*. This is proving to be a very popular shared reading book!



Yellow Class

Yellow Class have had great fun both indoors and out! In art we have been looking at the clothes and accessory styles of Coco Chanel, in particular her hat designs. Based on these ideas the children then designed and created their own hats. There was definitely some creative flair in Yellow Class! Outdoor education has been exciting. We have been looking at following simple maps of the field to find clues. We discussed how symbols had been used to represent certain areas. The children then created their own designs of a play area using natural things around them to represent features such as slides, swings and even some quad bikes! We then created a map to represent the area we had designed. In English we have recently started our guided reading book 'The Eye of the Wolf', learning about the story of Blue Wolf and his growing friendship with Africa, a boy who has his own, mysterious story to tell. Division has been our main focus in maths alongside lots of Times Tables Rock Stars. In science, we have been looking at Solids, liquids and gases and in particular the water cycle where we have been studying the four areas of evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection in our 'Water Cycle in a bag' demonstration.



Orange Class

Orange Class have been very busy this term and have just completed some wonderful non-chronological reports based on our class book 'When the mountains roared,' writing about mountains, Indian leopards and Himishal Pradesh, an area of India. In maths we have continued working on multiplication and division this term, we have moved on to some tricky reasoning and problem solving using long multiplication and division which has got us all thinking! In fractions we are now moving on to adding and subtraction. In guided reading we have been looking at lots of different extracts from fiction texts. The children have been excellent detectives, discovering the meanings of unfamiliar words by looking at the text for clues and practicing their dictionary skills. We have also focused on developing our inference skills using pictures as well as texts. In science we are now learning about our solar system, how scientific theories have developed over time and how to identify scientific evidence. This has sparked some interesting conversations! We found out how you calculate the circumference of the Earth using just 2 sticks and a bike!



Red Class

Over the last few weeks, Mr Merrick from Bishop's has been working with Red Class to develop our descriptive writing skills. We have really enjoyed writing descriptions based on pictures and using a pan and zoom approach. For World Book Day Red Class enjoyed reading 'The Fantastic Flying Books of Morris Lessmore' and watching the animated film based on the book.

In maths we have been looking at coordinates in all 4 quadrants and translating and reflecting shapes. We have also been looking at how to convert fractions into decimals and percentages. We have really enjoyed working with Wyldwood and Brockhampton Court. We have developed stories (based on puppets that we have made in previous sessions) to share with the residents and some of them have been filmed so that they can be enjoyed whilst we are unable to visit Brockhampton Court. In History we have continued to study the Shang Dynasty and have been learning about the social hierarchy, gods and religion and artefacts.

We have also been talking about well-being and social media. We enjoyed developing an action plan to support a young person's well-being which included planning a balance of activities both online and offline.