



St John's Newsletter

Friday 26th February 2021

An update from Mr Rubin...

I hope that you had a good half term break. After the Government announcement on Monday 22nd February, schools have been instructed to open for all pupils on Monday 8th March. We are finalising the control measures and updating our risk assessments. Next week I will send you a copy along with the staggered times for starting and finishing the day. We are looking forward to welcoming all the children back and cannot wait to see them!

We wrote to you yesterday to get your views on extending this half term by a week. This would not only give the children longer to settle in before we break up for Easter but also means that in the second week of the break, some restrictions may be lifted. We will let you know the findings early next week.

Thank you for encouraging your children to work hard with their online learning and sending their work in. I have showcased some examples on the next page. Make sure you have a look at the arrangements for World Book Day in the newsletter.

Have a lovely weekend, stay safe and be kind to one another.



Half Term Food Bank

Thank you to all of our staff who volunteered their time to set up our food bank over the half term break. I think it was our busiest one yet with a large selection of food and hygiene products for families to collect. A big thank you to our former Chair of Governors Ian Graham for his generous contribution. If you need some support with food, please do not hesitate to email the school on our parents@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk email. We have a collection every Friday afternoon.



Follow us on Twitter @5tJohnsTower

One of the best ways to keep up to date with what is happening at school is via our Twitter feed. We now have 291 followers! Getting closer to 300...


LI: To write a narrative with suspense

The war had started, all I hear is bomb sounds. As a man I am a soldier, with a gun. I survive? My fear has faded. My legs feel weak with anxiety. How long will the war continue?

I'm just stuck in the trench. The looks quickly go through my mind. The world death. Stuck not to no more. How could I overcome my fancy set of feet. Boom! A bomb sets off. I'm become deaf. But I get my hearing back.

Then, the commander told us to get the gun ready. It was fighting fine. We jumped out the trench. Suddenly, so fast we fired quickly and rapidly. I grabbed my grenade, set it off, and threw it. When the grenade exploded, I saw two dead bodies. All who the air. But he wasn't all.... (but but my feet lay stuck to the ground and an enemy spotted me with his sniper, I'm in trouble. I heard the sniper shot and I thought I was going to die, but my father jumped in front of me and took the bullet. I survived....

Tan (or Burnt Sienna) crayon is short, fluffy and soggy. He's also not digestable. He is confused about who he is and annoyed that he was puked up on the floor. He would like to go on a spa holiday where he can be pampered and looked after. I think he deserves a break.



Sharing Your Work

Some beautiful examples of work sent in over the last couple of weeks. It really makes me happy to see how hard the children are working. We have a wide range of writing examples this week, from narratives to biographies. I was also struck by the lovely necklace that was made. Do please tweet your work-samples in. They inspire our children to be creative and strive.



RE - Kindness

Kindness is about being friendly to one another.

I helped my mum and dad make the bed and wash the dishes.

Kindness doesn't always mean you must do something smiling and greeting is also kind to

There is no limit to kindness. You don't have to do something big all the time, you can simply share something with anyone you know.

"Love your neighbours as yourself;"
This means neighbours are like your own family and you should treat them well and how you would like to be treated.

It's not always possible to do something all the time for someone. I find it very hard to be kind when someone is being rude and mean to me or when I'm angry or sad. Even though I try my level best to be kind.

I am delighted to announce the winner of the Sports person of the year 2021 is Eleanor May Simmonds!

Eleanor May Simmonds OBE (known as Ellie Simmonds) has had an amazing career winning eight medals, with five of them being gold. She started swimming at the age of 5, and came to national attention when she competed in the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing, winning 2 gold medals for Great Britain, being the youngest member on the team! Ellie was elevated to Office of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2013. She has had an amazing year and Great Britain paralympic teams are lucky to have her. Here's what Ellie had to say, 'The whole nation had their eyes on me and I knew couldn't let them down, thank you, from the bottom of my heart.'



Keeping Fit with Mr. Malcolm

We have our very own St. John's Keep Fit guru Mr. Malcolm. He has recorded a work out on our YouTube channel and I think he could well be giving Joe Wicks some strict competition. Do please encourage your children to take part to boost their fitness levels.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1plTw3VCrE>



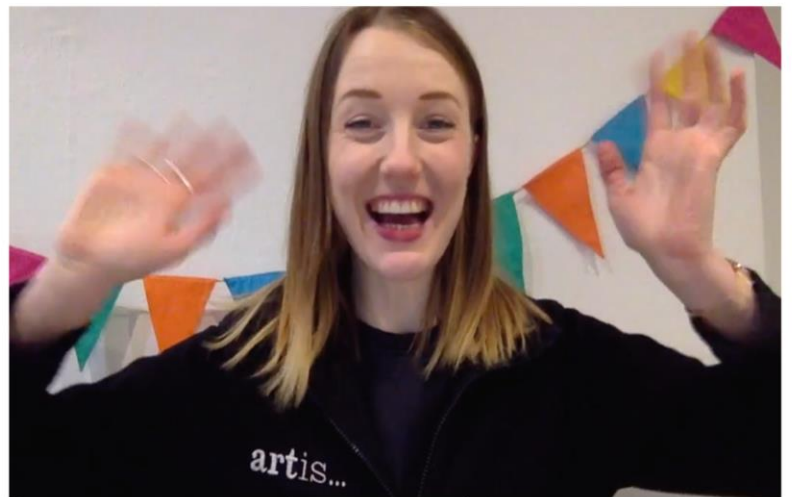
Mr Malcolm's Fitness Session!



Artis Update

Don't forget that children can access all the recorded lessons and sessions from Artis since we have been in lockdown. Please encourage children to take a look - they are brilliant! Click on the link below, and enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?app=desktop&list=PLrtLkmztNPCMNSNT1Fnp3Lfj8MWktQpAM>



Soul UK

Thank you to Shipon and everyone at SOUL for the generous donations. Not only do they contribute to our foodbank but they have also donated ten Chromebooks to help families with remote learning.

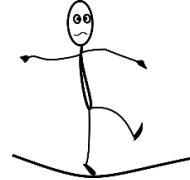




A message from Place2Be.....



Hello again children of St John's from Place2Be!
How have you all been feeling this week? For this week's feelings check-in, perhaps we can wonder what our feelings would be like if they were an act in the **circus**.....



Perhaps you might be feeling full of laughs...like a bunch of giggling clowns! Or maybe you feel the *whoosh* of a trapeze artist as they soar through the sky. Or maybe you feel a bit like you're 'balancing' all your feelings....a bit like a tight rope walker trying not to fall off?
Don't forget to share your feelings with your family, your friends, your teachers....and remember to ask others how they have been feeling too.

In Place2Be, we talk a lot about how sometimes our minds can feel quite 'full'. When our minds do feel really 'full', it can help to **take a moment**....to *pause*....and to play really close attention to what's going on for our **senses**. This can help our minds 'take a break', and can help us *relax*.

For this week's activity, we're going to be paying close attention to our **senses** the next time you eat a snack at home!

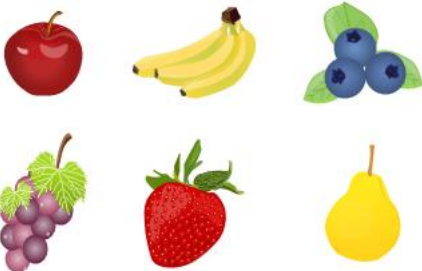
Take a look at the snack you're about to eat – what colour is it? What shape is it?

What does your snack feel like? Is it rough...is it smooth?

Take a listen – does it make a noise...do you think there will be a big crunch when you eat it?

Now smell your food! What does its smell like? Does it give you any memories?

Now finally.....Taste! Do you like the taste? Does it remind you of anything else?

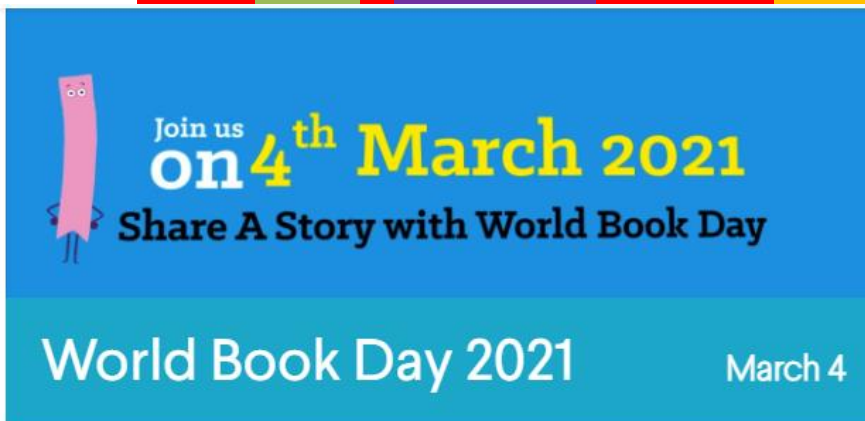


Dear Parents/Carers,

It's likely that children will be spending more time online at the moment as we all spend more time at home. Find here some advice on how to start conversations around online/digital safety with your child:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

Our first 'Virtual' World Book Day – March



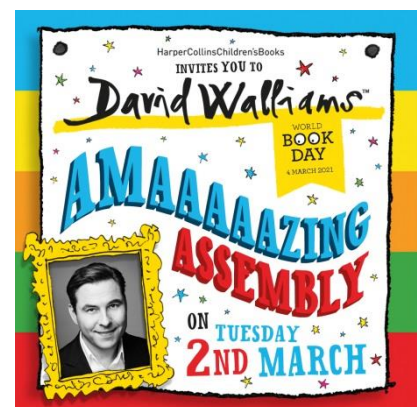
Don't miss out on the fun of dressing up as your favourite character from a book and joining us for our World Book Day assembly at 9.30am!

The day is also a fantastic opportunity to share with your family your favourite stories, books, poems and authors; as well as listen to a range of stories from other people.

As a warm up for the day ... on **March 2nd**

Join David Walliams in his AMAAAZING assembly for World Book Day. That's Tuesday 2nd March at 10:30am!

Where David Walliams will be in conversation with Blue Peter presenter Lindsey Russell for this one-off virtual event! (We will be sending you the link for this when we get it.)





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HILARITY ACADEMY

NEW TERM BEGINS MARCH 1ST!

FREE COMEDY COURSES FOR AGES 7 TO 18 INTERESTED IN LEARNING AND PERFORMING COMEDY!

Our FREE “Hilarity Academy” project is funded by Children In Need and now into its second year. Workshops happen on Monday’s afterschool. They will start online and then at St Margaret’s House in our Chapel as soon as possible after March 8th.

Join Hilarity Academy for our Spring 2021 led by professional comedians!

Start Date of Spring Term: Monday 1st March 2021

Last day of Spring Term: Monday 22nd March 2021

Times Juniors (ages 7-12): 4pm-5pm. Seniors (ages 13 to 18) 5:15pm-6:30pm

Where: Online and Chapel at St Margaret’s House, 21 Old Ford Road, E2 9PL

Contact: hilarity@stmargarethouse.org.uk

Hilarity Academy is a FREE, fun space for young people to learn and engage in the skill of making people laugh. Workshops include lessons on learning how to tell jokes, creating sketches, writing stand up material and clowning.

They are led by experienced comedians who have experience of working in professional comedy and working with young people. They are also DBS checked.

Young people will not only gain skills but also have the opportunity to make and share filmed comedy sketches and create live performances in St Margaret’s House and West End comedy club.

We also have guest facilitators which have included: Saima Ferdows: TV producer for ITV, Channel 4 and script assisted on the script of the new Borat film! Kayleigh Cassidy: improvisation specialist and Rising Star Comedy Award winner, trained at IO Chicago and The Magnet New York. Tom Ward: stand-up comedian and has been seen on TV for Comedy Central and was tour support for Jack Whitehall.

Check out the website to see how to get involved and get more information:

<https://www.stmargarethouse.org.uk/hilarity-academy>

PUPIL CODE OF CONDUCT for GOOGLE CLASSROOM ONLINE SESSIONS

This Code of Conduct outlines our expectations of pupils during online sessions.

This matches our expectations of pupils in school and will help pupils get the most out of their online learning.

Attendance at lessons is compulsory; a register will be taken at the start of each lesson.

I understand that by joining the sessions I agree to follow the code of conduct outlined below:

- Whilst online, I will follow the school's policies including the Behaviour Policy, Anti-bullying Policy and the Acceptable Use Policy.
- I will be on time, prepared and have any resources ready, such as paper, book, pencil etc.
- I will communicate politely and will ensure that my communication is supportive of my learning and the learning and wellbeing of others.
- I will only use Google Classroom for online learning and will only upload, forward, browse or download, materials related to my learning and will only do this when asked to by my teachers.
- During live online sessions, my parent/ carer should be near me, if possible, in the same, or a nearby, room with the door open.
- I will not use Google Classroom to create groups, initiate calls or meetings and I will end sessions when the teacher tells me to do so.
- I understand that I must remain muted in live lessons or meetings, unless my teacher unmutes me or tells me to unmute.
- When taking part in an online session I will ensure that:
 - my environment is quiet and free from distractions;
 - the background and foreground are appropriate (check what is visible behind and in front of you);
 - I am suitably dressed (fully dressed and not in pyjamas!);
 - I will remain attentive.
- I will regularly check my Google Classroom account to ensure that I stay on track with my learning.
- I will not take photos of my screen or record online interactions
- At the end of live lessons or Google Meetings, my teacher will ask me to 'hang up' before closing the meeting. I will do this promptly as directed by my teacher.
- If the teacher's computer fails, ending the lesson, I will hang up and leave immediately.
- I understand that online sessions may be recorded by my teacher, but that the recordings will not be made public.
- I understand that, if I fail to follow this Code of Conduct, my teacher might remove me and there will be a follow up consequence for my actions.
- *Remember with social media, when you type something it's always there and you can't*



MADE OF MONEY WEBINAR SERIES

Reducing Energy Costs

- Understanding your gas and electricity, and ways to cut costs
- Monday 1 March (11am or 3pm)
- FREE 30 minute webinar on Zoom
- To register: <https://bit.ly/3jOZpQ8>



Getting a Good Deal on Broadband & Mobile

- Using comparison sites to find the best deals
- Wednesday 3 March (11am or 3pm)
- FREE 30 minute webinar on Zoom
- To register: <https://bit.ly/3jOZpQ8>

Staying Safe Online

- Learn how to stay safe online
- Thursday 4 March (11.30am or 3pm)
- FREE 30 minute webinar on Zoom
- To register: <https://bit.ly/3jOZpQ8>

