



St John's Newsletter

Friday 23rd April 2021

An update from Mr Rubin...

I hope you had a good Easter break and are well rested. It is lovely to have everyone back at school. Four of our classes had to isolate just before the holidays but we are determined to celebrate Easter as we normally would so preparations are in place for our delayed Easter Celebration next Friday 30th. In the newsletter this week I will share with you the results of the recent survey carried out on home learning. In the next newsletter I will share your views on how effectively we communicate.

If you have had the opportunity to walk past our big playground recently you may have seen the building work that has taken place. Feedback from the children has been overwhelmingly positive and I would like to thank everyone involved.

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

Earth Day & Stephen Lawrence Day

On Tuesday we reflected on Earth Day and Stephen Lawrence Day. Children looked at the damage plastic is causing the seas and rivers and classes reflected on the work of Greta Thunberg and Sir David Attenborough. In the picture below two of our Early Years pupils are investigating and discussing the effects of plastic.

Class 5 looked at work from the artist Steve Ofili, in particular his 'No Woman, No Cry' piece based on Doreen Lawrence. They spoke about how the image could be Mother Earth lamenting over the state of our planet.

A big thank you to our staff for their work on this, in particular Mrs. Brownbill who organised many of the resources.





Message from Roxanne Abraham – Attendance & Welfare Advisor

Dear parents,

Since working alongside St. John's I am pleased to say there has been a massive improvement in school attendance.

I would personally like to thank the parents/carers who have been working hard to ensure your children attend school every day and on time. Thank you for getting these important habits established early on in your child's life as it will make a big difference in their futures.

If you have any attendance related matters or concerns, please feel free to contact me on 07940108351.

Speech and Language Update – Ms. Dixon

At the beginning of this term, the school has welcomed a new Speech and Language therapist called Deniece Dyer (pictured below). This is to cover for Anna Geaves whilst she is on her maternity leave.

In the next week or so, we will be asking you to sign a consent form so that your child can continue to receive Speech and Language support during this term. We appreciate your support with this. It is standard practice for a new provider to seek consent, even if this has already been given when their speech language sessions first began.



Online Safety Competition

I have been meaning to announce the results of our E-safety poster competition in the last newsletter. There were lots of entries and the field was strong so congratulations to these two worthy winners.



Ms Moses has put up a number of entries in the ICT suite to help our pupils to remember to stay safe online.

Thank you to Ms. Moses for organising the competition.



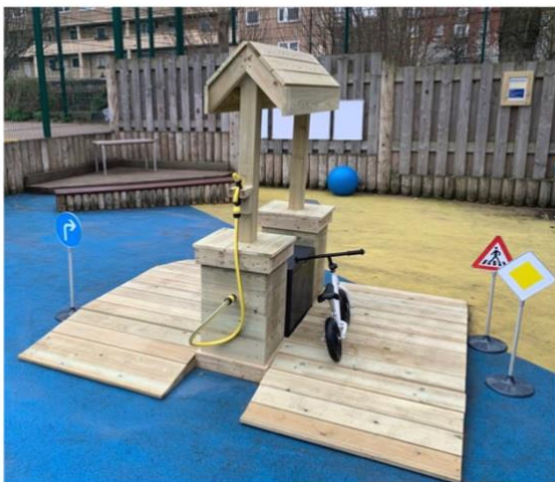
Follow us on Twitter @5tJohnsTower



One of the best ways to keep up to date with what is happening at school is via our Twitter feed. We now have 308 followers.

Building Project Update – Mr. Rubin

We are so grateful to Harry Hill and his family and friends. Harry came over to visit having done some amazing work at St. Paul's. He wanted a project that his family and friends could get stuck into and highlighted our Early Years outdoor area. He also wanted to create a better seating area in our KS2 playground. The end results are incredible. Over the next few editions I will add more pictures of our children enjoying the new equipment.



Home Learning During Lockdown Survey – Summary

Thank you to all of the parents/carers that took the time to respond to the survey. We tried to make it as user friendly as possible using survey monkey and sending the questionnaires to your electronic devices. I have provided a breakdown of the results along with a brief commentary. I have included comments that you have sent in by cutting and pasting them.

Overall, the feedback was positive and I am proud of the way that our school responded to the pandemic. Nevertheless, there are always things that we can learn and do better and your responses help to shape that.

In the unwelcome event of another lockdown, we have the technology in place to start Google Classrooms immediately. Children all have Purple Mash and Mini Mash accounts. We also have a bank of devices to loan to parents/carers to support their children from the outset.

Our staff are now trained to use Google Classrooms and are able to adapt quickly should the situation change. In addition, our parent support team along with support staff have experience in helping parents/carers to get online.

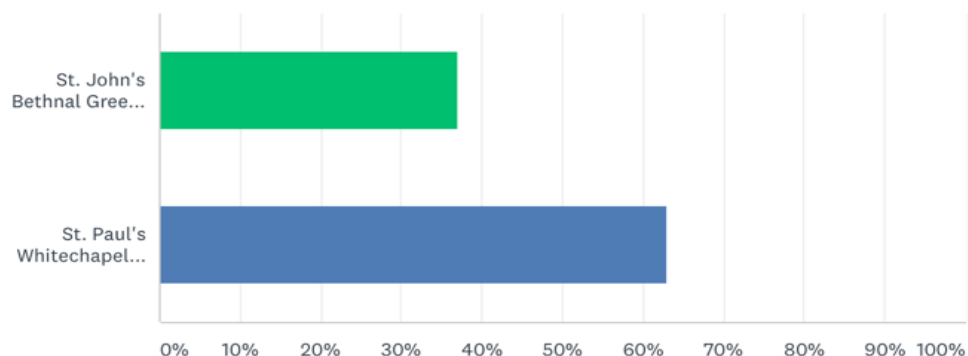
As ever, if parents/carers have concerns, our leadership team and parent support team/Place2Be (Denise/Kam) are present at the gate in the mornings and afternoons. Parents/carers are also encouraged to use our email address parents@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk if they wish to book an appointment or schedule a call.

I will publish the results of the school communication survey in the next edition. We will also be surveying our children for their views.

Mr. Rubin

Q1. Does your child attend?

Answered: 89 Skipped: 1



Commentary: 90 parents/carers completed the survey across the federation. 34 identified as parents/ carers from St John's

Q2. Which year is your child in?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Nursery	8.82%	3
▼ Reception	5.88%	2
▼ Year 1	11.76%	4
▼ Year 2	14.71%	5
▼ Year 3	29.41%	10
▼ Year 4	23.53%	8
▼ Year 5	23.53%	8
▼ Year 6	11.76%	4
Total Respondents: 34		

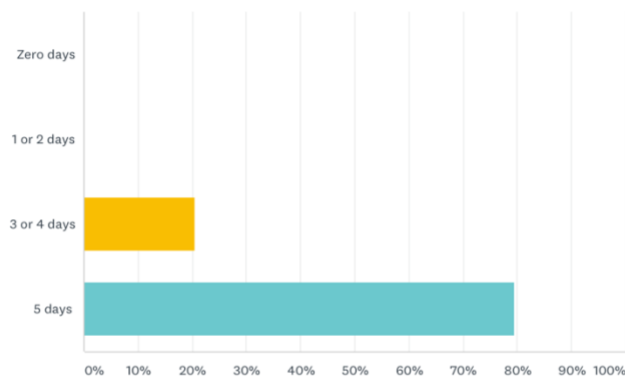
Q3. During lockdown my children had access to?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ A laptop or tablet (borrowed from school)	17.65%	6
▼ Laptop	44.12%	15
▼ Tablet eg iPad	55.88%	19
▼ Smartphone	17.65%	6
▼ Desktop/PC	5.88%	2
▼ No device	5.88%	2
Total Respondents: 34		

Commentary: The school loaned 48 devices to families.

Q4. How many days per week did your child(ren) used Purple Mash or Google Classroom?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0

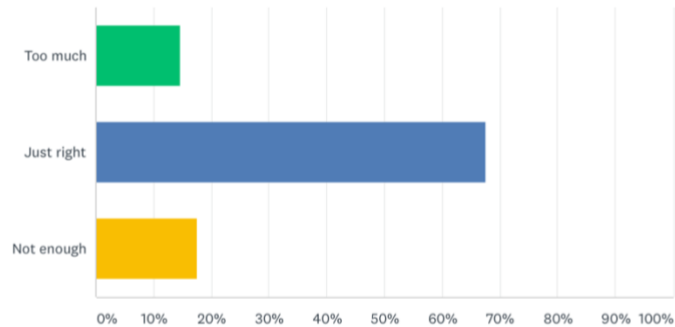


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Zero days	0.00%	0
▼ 1 or 2 days	0.00%	0
▼ 3 or 4 days	20.59%	7
▼ 5 days	79.41%	27
TOTAL		34

Commentary: The majority of children were engaged with their learning throughout the week.

Q5. The amount of work my child(ren) was asked to do at home was?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Too much	14.71% 5
▼ Just right	67.65% 23
▼ Not enough	17.65% 6
TOTAL	34

Commentary: The majority of parents/carers questioned thought that the amount of work set was just right with an almost even split between parents/carers who thought there was either not enough or too much work.

Q6. Did you have any of these problems during Lockdown? (Please select all that apply)

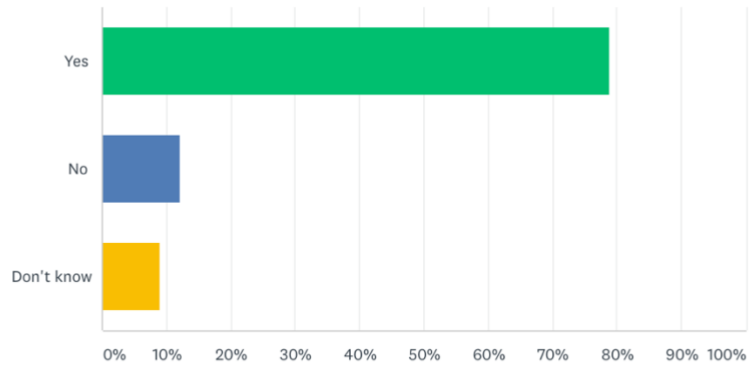
Answered: 34 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Lack of motivation from my child	47.06% 16
▼ Too busy to help my child	17.65% 6
▼ Not enough space for my child to learn	8.82% 3
▼ Having to share devices with brothers or sisters	8.82% 3
▼ No internet access	2.94% 1
▼ None of these	38.24% 13
Total Respondents: 34	

Commentary: 47% of parents/carers noted that there was a lack of motivation from their child during lockdown. Just below that, 38% of parents/carers felt that their children did not experience any of the listed problems.

Q7. Did you prefer your child(ren) learning through Google Classroom?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	78.79% 26
No	12.12% 4
Don't know	9.09% 3
TOTAL	33

Commentary: The majority of parents/carers preferred their children learning through google classrooms. Comments from people surveyed included:

Because it's better for them to be with their friends and teaching in school is more effective

3/18/2021 1:20 PM

[View resp](#)

Better interaction seeing his teacher and extra support and nice to see his friends too

3/18/2021 12:51 PM

[View resp](#)

He had 1.1 input and that helped him focus. He was also happy fleeing his classmates. It bridged the gap of not seeing them physically.

3/22/2021 6:46 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#)

I liked them seeing teacher and friends. I liked the mix of both purple mash and Google meet tho one Google meet a day was fine for us

Q8. What do you think the school has done well over lockdown?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 2

Kept in contact with me as a parent and encouraged me throughout

3/22/2021 9:10 PM

Teachers keeping in contact with children

3/22/2021 8:57 PM

Making sure the kids have enough work and communication with their teachers

Academically nothing The food bank was nice , something to be proud of

The updates and tailored support given to my son. It was really helpful. The SENCO, class teacher and TA all checked on my son. As well always asking for my welfare. It was inclusive.

3/22/2021 6:46 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add](#)

Good communication and great online lessons that my daughter really enjoyed

3/22/2021 6:44 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add](#)

Availed themselves for children of key workers.

3/22/2021 6:34 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add](#)

Google classroom and phone calls if your child was finding it difficult

All effort and time invested to make sure my child doesn't fall too much behind we are very appreciative

3/18/2021 5:48 PM

[View resp](#)

Yes, the teachers worked very hard to support us. Really appreciated. Thank you.

Supporting families

3/18/2021 1:20 PM

Communication is on point so prompt in responding and always keeping us up to date with activity's and what is going on

3/18/2021 12:51 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Home learning and keeping int3with the parents.

3/18/2021 12:51 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Introduced Google classroom and the weekly update calls to ask how the children are doing

3/18/2021 12:45 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Keeping kids safe the ones who went to school

Commentary: The overwhelming majority of comments highlighted communication and how hard the staff worked as things that went well.

9) What do you think the school could have done better over lockdown?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 2

The afternoon class was tiring for my child.

3/18/2021 5:32 PM

[View respondent's answer](#)

Communicating The quality of education they was getting was and is embarrassing Academically you need to do better

3/18/2021 5:27 PM

[View respondent's answer](#)

More hours google class room

3/18/2021 2:27 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Introducing Google Classroom sooner

3/18/2021 2:27 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Us as parents would like a bit more support and tips on how to be teachers at home

3/18/2021 1:48 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Marking work and giving feedback makes a massive difference to the children because otherwise they say what's the point nobody is going to mark it they won't know if I did it wrong or right!

Introducing Google Classroom sooner

3/18/2021 2:27 PM

Us as parents would like a bit more support and tips on how to be teachers at home

I feel that it is a lot harder for be to do online learning with my child so I think that the goggle classroom sessions could have been longer and also they could ah e incorporated other lessons like maths English and science

3/18/2021 12:45 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Got google classrooms running quicker. Putting on a parent zoom meeting to show parents how to upload work.

3/22/2021 5:51 PM

[View respondent's](#)

more one to one with children from their teacher but i also understand that it's difficult.

3/18/2021 12:51 PM

Commentary: Feedback pointed to the aspiration that Google Classrooms would have started sooner. Parent/Carers expressed frustration around not having enough support on teaching techniques to help children at home. There was one comment received questioning the quality of education received. The majority of parents/carers replied saying 'nothing' to this question.