

ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



NEXT WEEK'S ASSEMBLY ONLINE

Term: Summer - **Issue Number:** 07 - **Date:** 12th June 2020

HELLO FROM MRS WALLIS

It has been another busy week with those returning to school in Y6 settling into their new routines and groups, whilst staff busily prepare for the return of Y1 pupils next week and children in EYFS the week after. In the meantime, Cool Club continues to run for the children of key workers and those at home are occupied with home learning tasks set by their teachers.

As rules around lockdown are eased, I hope that you are able to get out and about a little more and begin to meet up with others, as the guidelines allow. I wrote earlier in the week via email about our plans for transition as well as the rest of this academic year, and I am sorry that it seems unlikely that we will be able to welcome everyone back into school before the end of term, as I had hoped. However, I know that many of you are communicating with class teachers as well as office staff; please do stay in touch as we do miss seeing everyone and look forward to September when, we hope, things will seem a little more 'normal'.

Thank you for messages of support and encouragement, as well as your involvement in the challenges and blogs; they all help to ensure our community continues to function well, even when we're not physically together. I hope that you have a restful and enjoyable weekend,

Mrs Wallis



01992 463214



www.stcaths.herts.sch.uk



@StCathsHodd



@StCathsSchool



@StCathsSchool

A MESSAGE FROM THE EARLY YEARS TEAM

Hello again!

We hope you have enjoyed the mathematical focus of this week's activities and found the curriculum newsletter informative. If you have not yet had a chance to read the curriculum newsletter, please look to previous emails and read it. The curriculum newsletter provides further support when teaching maths and reading and also gives a lot of information about the upcoming learning packs. These packs will be ready by 22nd June and when they are ready:

- Please pick them up from school at the time and date that will be communicated to you next week
- If your child is returning to school, they can bring the learning pack home with them

There are many activities, suggestions and ideas to support learning. Please use this pack in addition to supporting your child through play and exploration. The pack will replace the weekly activities sheet as the learning pack covers many areas and is very comprehensive. In the future, this weekly newsletter will suggest some further resources or highlight an area of learning to focus on to provide further support.

If your child is returning to school, next week you will receive information about your child's class and details about logistics. There will also be a video to support your child's reintegration back to school and provide you with information about dropping off and picking up your child, at your allotted time. Please share the video with your child so they are familiar with the setting and arrangements.

We look forward to welcoming back those children who are returning to school, and in the future we look forward to seeing those who are not yet returning. The learning pack and these newsletter messages will continue to support all children and as always, please contact the school using email or phone if want to speak to a member of the early years team.

For now, please wait until you are contacted (next week) where you will get information about picking up your learning pack. If you are looking for a focus before the learning packs are available for collection, why not make a diorama? This is where you use an old box (shoe or cereal boxes work well) to create a scene. This could be a scene from a story or TV programme and include some of your child's toys. The following video (only 1 minute 41 seconds) gives a good overview. If you do not have some of the resources available, then don't worry! There is no right or wrong way to construct one! I have used collage for backgrounds as well as pens, dirt, grass, sand, stones, pencils or paint – all are effective! https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=how+to+make+a+diorama&safe=active&ssui=on#kpvalbx=k9LhXvDbEoCd1fAP_ry-wAM64 Then why not add labels, speech bubbles or a title? After playing with the scene for a while, can your child tell you a story using the scene for you to listen to or write down and give back to them?

Many thanks,

The Early Years Team



GREETINGS FROM THE Y1 TEAM

Dear Year 1,

We hope you have enjoyed learning about mini-beasts and 'The Bad- Tempered Ladybird' this week. We have certainly enjoyed looking at all of your hard work. We have loved looking at the different characters that the bad-tempered Ladybird could have met, including crocodiles, skunks and snakes. It has also been a delight to read all of the brilliant facts about lots of different animals from the story- the drawings were great too! As we learnt so many fun facts about lots of different animals, we thought we would share some of them with you:

1. In 2017 a 'Unicorn mantis' was discovered in Brazil. It has a spike in the middle of its head to make it look like a unicorn- Iva.
2. The name rhinoceros means 'nose horn'- Logan.
3. A group of gorillas are called a 'troop'- Darcie.
4. Sparrows like to build their nests in buildings, trees and boxes- Honey.
5. Female hyenas are stronger and bigger than male hyenas- Alexander.

It has also been a pleasure to see some of the fantastic things you have been doing at home; some of you have been very busy this week. We loved seeing that some of you have made your own books, have been on mini-beast hunts or have even made Ladybird sandwiches out of tomatoes! Everyone has tried extremely hard with their learning, so we wanted to say a massive well done to you all!

Next week, those of you who are continuing to learn from home will be set some fun activities (both offline and on Purple Mash) on Monday. We will be continuing to learn about different types of mini-beasts. In the meantime, we hope you have a very restful weekend.

Miss Bennett, Ms Maud and Miss Hancock

[Support for handwriting](#)

[Karate cats](#)

[Litton Sutton English Hub Phonics](#)

SOME WORDS FROM MRS LINES AND MRS BUTLER - Y2

We hope you are all well and you have had a great week. Well done to all those who have completed activities on Purple Mash. We are very impressed with how you have followed the directions on a compass and located the seven continents and the seas of the world.

We can see many of you have completed the learning sent out via email on Monday and shared your learning and interesting facts on our year 2 blog.

Look out for another email this Monday for some more exciting activities and some more column addition and subtraction.

We will also set more work on Purple Mash for next week although we will be in school from Monday so you may not receive feedback as quickly as you have been – we will respond as soon as we can. We have had some positive comments about how much you are enjoying this topic so any other work you complete, please share on our blog or on the school Facebook page or send them to us via scsocial@stcaths.herts.sch.uk

We hope you have a restful weekend- take care, stay safe and keep in touch.

Mrs Lines and Mrs Butler



SOME WORDS FROM THE Y3 TEAM

Dear Year 3,

It has been wonderful to see you produce such high quality work this week (as always!). You have been working so well at home and it really makes us proud.

We have started fractions this week in maths and it isn't the easiest topic to learn/teach via email and the internet, but you have worked so hard to understand it. We have been adding and subtracting fractions and have just moved onto learning about equivalent fractions. We will continue learning about fractions next week and we have no doubt that you will all take to the challenge as well as you have done this week.

In English, we have continued to focus on adverts and persuasive writing. We have loved reading your persuasive letters to your families asking if you can choose your bedtime at weekends. They were all fantastic and were probably very hard to say no to, especially as a few included offers to make breakfast in bed the next day!

Well done Year 3 for having another amazing week and we hope that you have a restful weekend.

Mr Harvey and Miss Chaytor

SOME WORDS FROM THE Y4 TEAM

Hello year 4,

It's been lovely to see so many of you engage in the author fact file work we set this week and we have seen some superb work submitted which you've clearly put a lot of research and work into so well done.

Some of you may have noticed a slight change in Purple Mash work set this week. Instead of daily spelling and grammar tasks, we have begun to use Serial Mash, a programme on Purple Mash which starts with reading tasks and follows on the next day with questions. This is similar to how we would be planning and delivering their Guided reading lessons in school and gives children a chance to work on their comprehension skills.

This week, we have sent out an email to pupils and a blog regarding the class lists for next year. If you haven't done so already, please let us know your child's 3 preferred friends they would like in their class next year. We can only guarantee one of those friends but will do our best to try and ensure pupils are happy with their classes come September.

This week a special mention goes to Emilia T for a wonderful persuasive poster and to Maxim for logging on every day and working so hard to complete the tasks that are set.

Stay safe and healthy,

Miss Taylor & Ms Sofroniou



A MESSAGE FROM MR HUNT AND MISS BLACKALLER

Hi year five,

Another week has flown by and as ever, I have been amazed by the commitment you have made to the work that we have set. We have been delving deeper in to our termly topic and the children are beginning to understand more about the world around them and the creatures they share it with.

Firstly, a big thank you to all of the children that completed the creative writing tasks, which are in the creative writing blog if you would like to read them, they were very informative and entertaining. The writing challenges will stay active until the end of term so please try to attempt some of them to keep your writing skills up to date. This is very important to help prepare you for year 6.

The children have been doing a fantastic job of completing the rest of our tasks on Purple Mash and have shown great resilience by reading, editing and improving the work they initially do. Well done, keep it up.

Thank you to the children that have sent me pictures and examples of the extra challenges they have completed; I have tried to post these to our year five blog for all to see. It is also a good idea to look at these if you are struggling to understand any of the work.

The Times tables Rock Stars tournament has been a little more subdued this week so be sure to go online and fight for your class as the score is very close at the moment.

As mentioned in the email that was sent out from school, there is a document circulating to assist parents when navigating the Purple Mash platform. I hope that this will help you when supporting your children to finish the weekly work.

Next week's email will be posted via Purple Mash on Sunday and will inform everyone what tasks are to be set for the week.

As ever, if you have any questions or need any assistance with the work, just send a message to Mr Hunt and I will answer as quickly as possible.

Keep safe and working hard

Mr Hunt, Miss Blackaller, Mrs Bacon



Hi Year 6

We have enjoyed a fantastic week of learning, both at home and at school in Year 6. The children have learned more about the evacuation of millions of children from cities to the countryside in WWII and have written some super evacuee letters home. The children really embraced the idea of what evacuation must have been like for young children and we especially liked some of the archaic language that the children have used such as 'the food here is jolly good' and 'I look forward to your next correspondence'.

At school, the children have spent the week making their very own models of WWII Anderson Shelters that families built to keep themselves safe during the Blitz bombings by the German Luftwaffe. First, the children built a wire frame, then used strips of plaster to make the roof and sides of the shelter. Finally, the children have mounted their shelters onto a wooden block and painted them. They look great!

At home, the children were set a challenge to become master code crackers! They used a code cracking device to de-code enemy ciphers in order to read a really important message.

Thank you to all of you- children, parents, carers, brothers and sisters- for continuing to stay motivated and continuing to do your work and support learning. If you ever need any more information or some extension work, please email your teachers on 2Email or post a message in our blog and your teachers will reply to you.

Have a super weekend and we look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday or back on Purple Mash where new home learning will be posted on Monday morning!

Mr Fitch, Mr Scott and Mrs Waring



A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, RACHEL PENNANT

Dear families

This half term we are reflecting together on what it means to be courageous. As Mrs Wallis reminded us in our online Collective Worship last week, courage can be a difficult word to define as so often it looks like other things. Yet I do believe that many of us will have had to have shown a lot of courage in the past few weeks as we've faced situations that we weren't quite sure how they were going to turn out.

So I wanted to tell you the story today of someone from the Bible who also had to show courage as he wasn't certain how his situation would turn out. That person is Daniel. You may have heard about Daniel, maybe his experience in the fiery furnace or the lions den- but the story from his life that I want to tell today is rather different.

It takes place as the people of God had been captured by the Babylonians. The Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar, wanted to train Daniel and his friends to be part of the Royal Household and to be leaders. Part of that training meant putting them on a special rich diet- drinking wine and eating food from the Royal table. Daniel wasn't happy with this however "We cannot eat the royal food" he said. "We cannot eat anything which has been offered to the gods of Babylon." Ashpenaz, the man who was in charge of their training, was very worried when he heard this. "The King will not be happy, he will not be happy with me when he sees you getting thinner and he will want to kill me."

Daniel was certain however that he could not and would not eat the food, even though he knew it was risky. So he suggested to Ashpenaz that they try an experiment. Daniel and his friends would just be given vegetables and water for 10 days. After this he could see how they compared with the other men in training. Ashpenaz was very concerned but he agreed to their request and amazingly, after 10 days of vegetables and water, Daniel and his friends looked stronger and healthier than all the others who had eaten the royal food! So they were allowed to continue and in time became famous in the Royal Household for their wisdom and learning.

I wonder what you think about this story? I wonder what you gave Daniel and his friends courage to trust that they would be ok?

Maybe this story seems a strange example of courage, perhaps because it seems quite a small thing. However I think it's often in these smaller decisions of life that we have to show the most courage, to stand up for what we believe, even when we are unsure of what will happen.

I wonder what small (or large) decisions you will have to make this week, where you might have to show courage? What might help you to do so?

Hope you have a great week.

Rachel



Welcome back, Rockers!!! What a fantastic week of battles last week was; some brilliant class and individual scores.

If your class or year group was victorious, congratulations. Well done to all those children who play each week to help their class and score as many points. If your class was not victorious, don't worry, there is a battle going on right now between your class and another.

Head over to Times Table Rockstars to play and rack up some points.

If you have forgotten your login details, please let your teacher know via Purple Mash and they will be able to send you them.

Here are the top scoring children from last week (WC 01/06/20)

Year 1: Tyler (sole player/ winner)

Year 2: Louisa, Logan, Motiejus

Year 3: Holly.F, Dennis, Holly.D

Year 4: Patryk, Emilia, Ioana

Year 5: Shahwaiz, Louie, Georgia

Year 6: Jamie, Ilkim, Owen

Player of the week:

Jamie, Year 6. Jamie scored an incredible 3524 points by himself, securing victory for The Lynch Class. Excellent work. Jamie.



If home isn't safe, we're here to help.



**If you or someone you know is
experiencing domestic abuse,
call **0300 790 6772*** for
advice and support.**

In an emergency, always call 999.

If you are afraid to speak,
call 999 from a mobile and press 5, 5.

For more information go to [hertssunflower.org](https://www.hertssunflower.org)

HERTFORDSHIRE
domestic abuse
PARTNERSHIP



*This number operates 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Calls outside of these hours may be diverted to a national helpdesk.



01992 463214



www.stcaths.herts.sch.uk



@StCathsHodd



@StCathsSchool



@StCathsSchool