

ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



NEXT WEEK'S ASSEMBLY ONLINE

Term: Summer - **Issue Number:** 08 - **Date:** 19th June 2020

HELLO FROM MRS WALLIS

It has been another busy week both in and out of school for our learners, staff and families. We have welcomed back children into our Early Years 'pods' and, as with the other returners, they have settled without any major difficulties despite having spent so long away from school. I am sure this is due largely to the careful preparation that has taken place for all children prior to their return, to make sure the environments are welcoming and inspiring as well as being safe and the learning engaging and challenging.

Home learning continues, although teachers have reported a slight decrease in the number of children accessing online tasks and challenges. This could be due to the warmer weather and people taking the opportunity to be outside, perhaps even taking on some of the weekly 'wild' challenges. I would like to encourage children to persevere with their studies right up to the end of term in order to benefit fully from the work their teachers are setting – and responding to – throughout the week. I notice that some children are excelling at TTRockstars – keep it up! It is interesting to see how the class 'battles' are progressing.

Once again, I would like to express thanks for supporting children, whether at home or school, at this challenging time. Have a good weekend.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE EARLY YEARS TEAM

Hello everyone,

We hope you are well, enjoyed the recent sunshine and managed to play outside. In school, it has been great to see the returning children so engaged in their learning and I am sure the children at home have been busy learning and using the home learning packs too. If you are feeling unsure how to support your child's learning, please refer back to the curriculum letter sent out earlier this term and keep learning through play. With the current pandemic in mind, play also supports well-being. For example:



How can you support your child's play?

- **Wait to be invited to play.** If your child is happily playing, it's fine to leave them to it.
- **Help protect your child's play from interruptions.** If your child is absorbed in playing, avoid switching on the TV or games console, asking questions or asking them to stop for other activities.
- **Let your child explore and make mistakes.** Let your child use trial and error and their own ideas without feeling foolish or judged.
- **Let your children develop skills at their own pace.** It's tempting to step in to help your child when they find something difficult but that's how they learn.
- **Let children choose the themes of their games.** Even if the themes seem difficult or upsetting, it's their play.

We hope you have fun playing
The Early Years Team



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GREETINGS FROM THE Y1 TEAM

It's been another busy week for Year one this week. The children in school have had a great time exploring bubbles, making bubble snakes and even finding themselves inside a bubble curtain! They have also made the most of the opportunities to investigate shadows that the sunny weather has offered. One pod even paused their outdoor maths lesson to experience the joys of sycamore seed 'helicopters'! Once again, the teachers have been so proud of the children and their great attitude to learning.

Mrs Jaggs has been loving seeing all the hard work on purple mash from our children continuing their learning at home. In particular, she has read some splendid mini-beast descriptions, especially from Olivia, Darcie and Logan. Well done!

Next week promises to be full of fun too, with the home-learners discovering more about beautiful butterflies and the in-school learners finding out what really happens at an alien tea party...

[Support for handwriting](#)

[Karate cats](#)

[Litton Sutton English Hub Phonics](#)

SOME WORDS FROM MRS LINES AND MRS BUTLER - Y2

Hello Year 2. Wow! Hasn't it been hot? We hope you have managed to stay cool. Mr Grinling, in his lighthouse will be enjoying a gentle sea breeze. Thank you to all those children who have been working on Purple Mash! We have seen excellent pictures of your favourite fruits and we are really pleased at how well you have completed the phonics challenges. There has been lots of great work posted on the blogs. A huge well done to all of you who have posted pictures and work there. We hope you have had a chance to try the word problems as well as the column maths this week too. Don't forget to look out for the email on Monday with next week's ideas. If you are unable to access Purple Mash please contact the school office as there are learning packs available which will support the children's learning at home.

Have a great weekend and stay safe.

Mrs Lines and Mrs Butler.

SOME WORDS FROM THE Y3 TEAM

This week in Year 3 we have continued writing our own stories inspired by the Michael Morpurgo book Dolphin Boy. Throughout the week we have developed story maps, character biographies and have spent time writing and editing the stories with our families at home. Everyone should be really proud of their wonderful stories.

A couple of excerpts for you; "The boat went really fast, the sea spray was hitting all our faces as we sailed through the waves..." and "Early one morning at the crack of dawn we all jumped into a taxi with our cases making our way to the airport. Once we boarded I could not hold my joy and happiness in any longer..."

In our maths learning this week we have been getting straight to the point and learning about angles. Angles are truly everywhere, it's not an acute problem, but let's not be obtuse about things and get right to it (that's all for now!). We have been exploring the angles found in different shapes, angles around our homes and learning creating our own shapes with different angles.

Please do remember to check your '2email' account as well as the '2do' alerts when you login to Purple Mash.

Have a great weekend,

Miss Chaytor & Mr Harvey

SOME WORDS FROM THE Y4 TEAM

Hi year 4,

A huge well done to everyone who is participating in the new research based topic work. We hope you're enjoying this aspect of learning and feel encouraged to take your learning further at home.

At the start of every week now, a new blog will be posted with that Monday's date detailing the topic work for the week. Children will need to check the Yr 4 Communication blog for video and website links to aid in their research project for the week. This can be located from the Home page under the Sharing section.



Once in the Sharing section, click on the **Shared Blogs** that appears in grey.



You will then be able to see all the different Blogs your child has access to. Topic work will be on the **Year 4 Communication blog**.



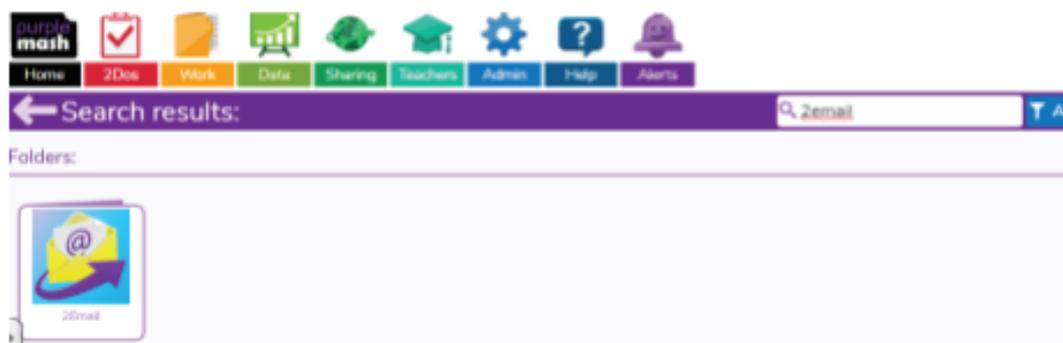
Be sure to regularly check the blogs and emails for updates and new information being communicated about the work. Please keep an eye out as your child may log on and only check the 2dos section missing any work set via the blog.

Please remind children that more detailed written tasks or animations require them to work for longer periods and in the case of some written tasks, require some online research. An extended writing task should take around 40 minutes to complete.

Additionally, the First News kids' magazine has been posted on a First News blog, which the children can access and read online. It contains great news about the current world events, explained in a child friendly manner. Some children may wish to email their friends if they are missing being at school. Purplemash has a safe and secure email system for pupils to email one another. This is also monitored and can be used as a means of communication with teachers too. To access their emails on Purplemash, pupils simply type 2email into their Purplemash search bar



SOME WORDS FROM THE Y4 TEAM... CONTINUED



They then just have to click on the **2email** icon and their personal email Inbox will come up.

This week a special mention goes to Kayden for a thoughtful and empathetic letter to a friend about bullying and to Bella for furthering her understanding of our rivers topic by visiting her local river.

As always, be sure to check out the WOW board as your fantastic work could be featured. This is located in the **Sharing** section on the home page.



Look for the **superhero symbol**.

Stay safe and healthy,

Ms Sofroniou & Ms Taylor



A MESSAGE FROM MR HUNT AND MISS BLACKALLER

Hello Year Five,

What a fantastic week! We have carried on studying our topic question 'Who else comes to our school?' but with a historic twist. This week the children have been investigating Mary Anning (A well-known Palaeontologist); check out our Mary Anning blog to see some of the brilliant research that has been completed. In addition to this, the children have also been researching vertebrates and invertebrates and attempting to explain what these terms mean. Well done to those that completed this task, the work was exceptional.

We had an extra art challenge this week and all work will be displayed in our extensions blog when it is received; our own virtual encyclopaedic gallery.

We still have a large percentage of children in year five completing most of the work that is set, thus ensuring that their learning is not interrupted too much and that they are preparing for year six.

Thanks to all of the children that sent us their choices of friends for next year, we have noted them and created the classes accordingly.

The times tables rock stars resource is still a little neglected but Max F, Louie D and Daisy C are continuing to work hard at winning the tournament. Please give this resource a visit and then attempt the times table challenge at the end of the week to see how you improve.

We will continue to follow the same format next week, so check the email that will be sent via Purple Mash for all of the detail about next week's work

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

WEEKLY ROUND-UP FOR YEAR 6...

Hi Year 6

This week, we have got stuck into some fantastic learning! At school, the children have learned all about Anne Frank. We have read extracts from her diary and learned about how she hid from Nazi soldiers in the Secret Annex for over 2 years with her family, before their secret hiding place was revealed and they were arrested. The children talked sensitively about the subject and then wrote super diary entries as if they were Anne. We have also been learning more about light in science and have experimented with how shadows are formed and how we see reflections in mirrors. The children have also started to video record their memories of their time at St Catherine's for our Virtual Yearbook.

At home, the children have been writing superhero stories. They have invented superheroes that have an array of super powers such as having light sources imbedded in them and another who could turn into any animal of their choice. The children have also coded a superhero game with characters moving, saying things, increasing in size and colliding with other characters- POW!

Don't forget, if you are learning at home and you want to add your video to our Virtual Yearbook of your favourite memory of your time at St Catherine's and also what your dreams and hopes are for the future, you must send your videos back to school by Monday 29th June to this email address: video@stcaths.herts.sch.uk.

We hope you have a fantastic weekend and we look forward to seeing you online or in school next week.

Mr Fitch, Mr Scott and Mrs Waring

A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR

Dear families

I do hope you've had a good week. It's been really hot hasn't it, so I hope you've managed to find some shade to cool down!

As we continue to think about this half term's value of courage, I wanted to share the story of Joshua with you today- he's another character from the Old Testament in the Bible, and you can read lots about him in the book named after him.

Joshua did lots of things that were courageous, but the one I want to think about today was when he led the people of God into the Promised Land- that was the homeland that the people had been promised by God as somewhere they could live in safety and prosperity. However their journey there was hardly easy. You may remember that they spent a long time- 40 years- wandering around in the Wilderness on their way to this Land. During this time they had to endure all sorts of hardships: limited food, isolation, lots of people who didn't like them and wanted them to fail. So they must have been really excited about the prospect of entering the Promised Land. The only trouble was that in order to get there, they had to capture the city of Jericho. Suddenly all their courage seemed to fail them- this was a big fortress and they couldn't see a way through.

However Joshua, their leader, believed that they could do it. How did he believe this? Well in the Bible it says that Joshua was given courage by knowing that God was with him and was calling him to lead the people. God says to Joshua in Joshua chapter 1 verse 9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

I don't think that was easy for Joshua- we don't need courage when things are easy- but I really think he was able to face these difficult situations by knowing that God was with him.

I wonder what difficult situations you might be facing in your life at the moment where you might need courage? Just like Joshua, if we want God's help in these times, God promises to be with us to help us through and give us courage to face even the most difficult of circumstances. Part of the way I believe that God does this is by giving us other people to help us and encourage us. We are really blessed that there are lots of people in Hoddesdon who can help us out and as a church we seek to be one of those people. So I hope and pray you will know courage in whatever you are facing, and please do let us know if there is any practical help we can give in these times: do get in touch via our website: <https://www.hoddesdonparishchurch.com>

Best wishes

Rachel

SCHOOL YOUTUBE CHANNEL

As you know we now have a St Catherine's YouTube channel which we have been able to use to support the welcoming back of children in Year 1 and Early Years and share Mrs Hasell's daily fitness challenges.

We are also exploring how it can be used to support those learning at home and celebrate some of the learning taking place both at home and at school.

Please can we remind you, that if you should receive a link to one of our YouTube videos that you keep this private and do not share the link or the video in line with our online safety agreement.

Many thanks,



TIMES TABLE ROCK STARS

A very interesting week in the world of Times Table Rockstars; some extremely high scoring players/ rockers, as well as some landslide defeats!

Overall, the St Catherine's Rockstars scored a combined total of 12,863 points, with Rye Meads scoring approximately a third of that total with 4287 points.

It is so fantastic to see so many children using TTRS while at home as part of their home learning schedule. For an added challenge, why not play some games in the soundcheck section of TTRS? Each question only allow you 6 seconds to type an answer!

Can you beat the clock??

A huge congratulations to the following players who were the highest scorers in their year group during last week's battles:

Year 1: Tillymae, Tyler

Year 2: Louisa, Logan, Zurielle

Year 3: Holly, Leon, Anoushey

Year 4: Emilia, Sophia, Patryk

Year 5: Harry, Max, Tami

Year 6: Ilkim, Cosmin, Maya

St Catherine's Player of the Week:

A special congratulations to Holly, in Rye Meads Class, who scored 2707 points in last week's battle securing victory for her class!

