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# St Mary's

## Church of England Primary School

### Newsletter No. 21 Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,  
We hope you continue to be safe and well. We are writing to you at the end of what has been a very different half term.

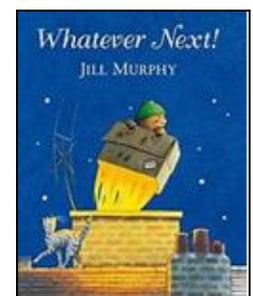
We have been **so proud** of the children and how well they have demonstrated our school vision throughout this very challenging period of lockdown. We know it's been difficult... more so than the lockdown we faced last year, so this newsletter comes with **enormous thanks to you** for supporting the children in every way.

Our final newsletter of this half term is largely dedicated to celebrating the children's achievements and hard work. We have captured a few learning highlights to share with you.



#### Learning in Reception:

Sandwich making: The children read the book 'Whatever Next' where the little bear uses his imagination to go to the moon for a picnic. You can [click here](#) to listen to the story too.



The children made their own sandwiches, carefully following a set of instructions.

The children also became Weather Watchers for a week, studying the weather in the morning and afternoon. They kept a weather chart to track changes across the week.



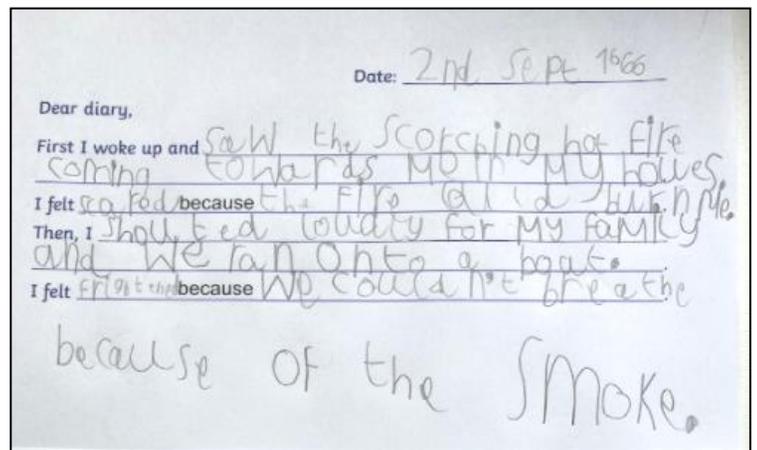
The snow provided an exciting focus too!

Diocese of St Albans  
London Borough of Barnet



## Learning in Year One:

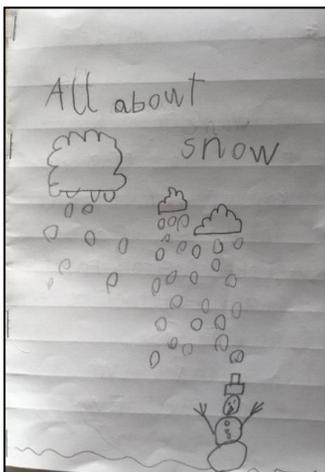
The children in Year 1 have been learning all about the Great Fire of London. They ended their amazing cross curricular topic by writing diary entries focusing on using adjectives, describing their feelings and using accurate details they learnt from their History lessons. Here are some examples of their posters and even some bread making – after all, the Great Fire did start in a bakery!



As part of their Design and Technology learning, Year 1 designed and made their own fruit salads. They learned the importance of food hygiene and safe knife skills before creating some lovely, colourful designs such as rainbows and smiley faces. Year 1 carefully evaluated the process too, just like every great designer!

## Learning in Year Two:

Year 2's focus text has been the book "Here We Are" by Oliver Jeffers. You can [click here](#) to listen to the story too.

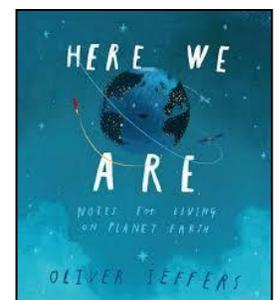


Year 2 made booklets and designed front covers so they could tell younger children all about a topic of their choice inspired by the book. Topics ranged from snow, to pandas to gears to tanks. Very varied!

They went on to make ocean sculptures and pictures before researching and writing information reports about oceans.

In Maths, Year 2 have been using nets to make their own 3D shapes and understand the 2D faces on 3D shapes.

They have been learning lots of new jokes in the group Google Meets. It seems that we also have lots of fans of the trumpet in Year 2, which was a discovery as part of a music lesson about orchestras!



### Learning in Year Three:

Year THREE have been learning all about Ancient Egypt. In English, they wrote non-chronological reports all about daily life in Ancient Egypt, the pyramids and the process of mummification.

In R.E Year 3 have learned about Diwali and explored the question as to whether celebrating Diwali gives a Hindu child a sense of belonging. They also learned about the Goddess Lakshmi and how diya lamps are lit during Diwali to guide her to people's homes.

They had a go at making their own diya lamps and lanterns. In maths, the children were exploring angles and took the opportunity to make snow angles in maths – why not?!



### The Pyramids



The pyramids were giant burial tombs and they were built for rich, important people like Pharaohs. Inside these ancient tombs you would find the mummified remains of a Pharaoh and they were buried with items they would need in the afterlife.

The body was mummified to preserve it which means it won't rot, so it could make its journey to eternal life.

The first pyramids were called step pyramids because they looked like steps. They were made taller by stacking stone layers.

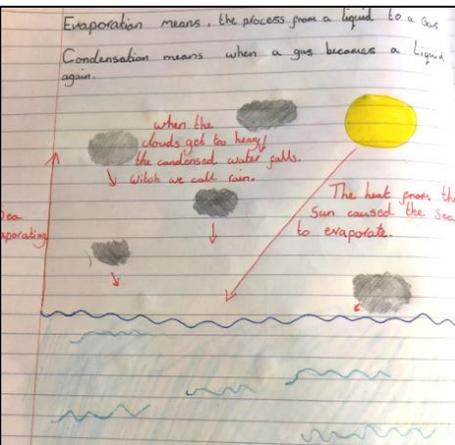
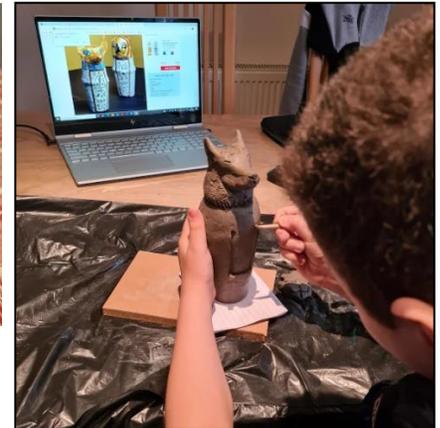
It is often believed that slaves built the pyramids but they were actually built by skilled craftsmen who were helped by farmers when the farmland was too wet to work.

As you can all see, the ancient Egyptians were amazing!

### Learning in Year Four:

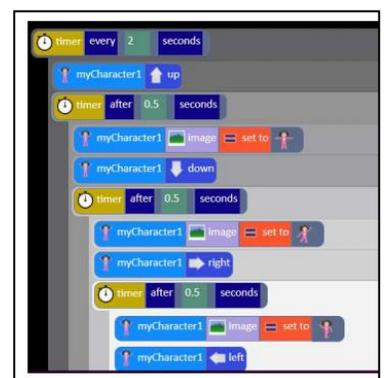
Year Four have also been learning about Ancient Egypt and there has even been a case of a toilet roll mummification in one family!!!

The children have been creative and made spectacular Canopic jars... hopefully, without any contents!



In Science, they have been finding out about the water cycle and there have been some wonderful diagrams and exploratory experiments going on at home to understand evaporation and condensation.

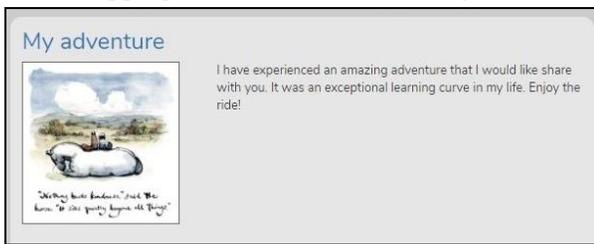
In computing, the children in Year Four have been coding using a timer. Here is just one example created in Purple Mash – behind each of the characters is a piece of code to direct timed and coordinated movement just like in the design of computer games. If you [click here](#), you can see what happens!



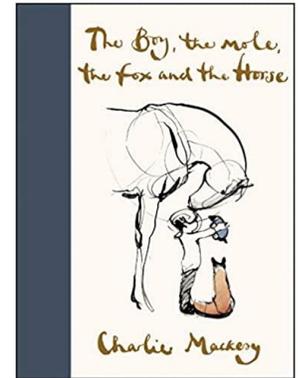
## Learning in Year Five:

Year 5 have been looking at the text 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse' By Charlie Mackesy. You can [click here](#) to listen to the story too!

The children created blogs on Purple Mash writing from the perspective of 'The Boy' and blogging about the lessons they learnt on their journey home.



Year 5 were so inspired by the lessons learnt from this text, that they also created some art work and wrote their own inspirational messages.

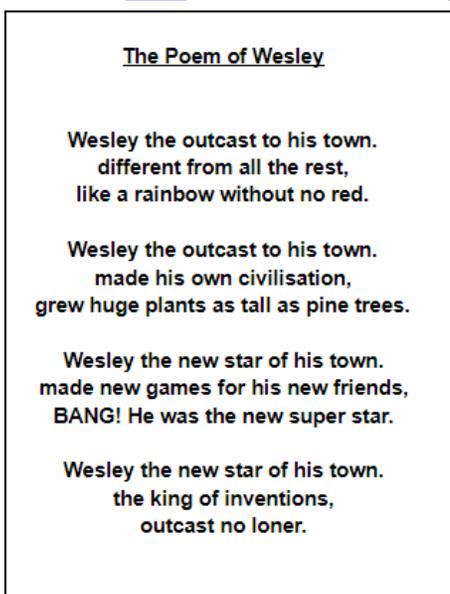


They have also spontaneously helped one another on the class stream with technical advice, which we think is absolutely brilliant. Here's a great tip:

*'Having trouble using PDFs? You can click 'open with'. Then click on 'open with doc hub's and you can put text boxes and write on it! When your done click the three lines in the left side corner. Then click Download/ Export... then click download. And it downloads the work as a PDF to hand in! :)*

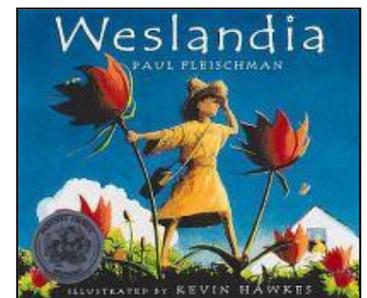
## Learning in Year Six:

In English, the children have been looking at a picture book called Weslandia. You can [click here](#) to listen to the story too!



As part of their learning, they wrote free verse poetry based on the book, using a range of poetic devices. Here is just one example.

In Science, Year 6 have been learning about refraction of light, the children were asked to do some practical tasks related to this. Many carried out experiments at home, in which a pencil appears to be broken when placed in a glass of water. Some also experimented with adding a layer of oil to the water too.



Year 6 were asked 'What song makes you feel really good when you listen to it?'

A wonderful outcome of their digital classroom has been the production their very own class playlist of music!

## Collective Worship:

Every day, a pre-recorded act of collective worship is shared on Google Classroom. There are regular opportunities for reflection and children frequently share their thoughts and ideas with us, as they would in school.

We have explored various themes including 'what is generosity' – one child's response was:

*'I think generosity is letting people have the better choice than you, giving money to charity, giving up your time for others and giving or doing things without receiving anything in return.'*

When asked about a situation that would be improved with God's love – one child said: *'There are a lot of hungry people in United Kingdom because of the Covid-19 as people have lost their jobs. We can help by giving food to the food banks and hope they get a new job soon.'*

We love singing together in school and after viewing, 'He's got the whole world in His hands', a child submitted this lovely comment:

*'After I heard this song and the video, I felt very thoughtful, felt loved and mostly like I was being helped'*



Following the story of how Jesus welcomed children, some of our children drew pictures and described them:

*'The children are happy to go to school again, see their friends and teachers. And Jesus is happy to see us and is going to look after us all 😊❤️.'*

They also commented about times when they feel special:

*'I feel special when my little brother asks to play with me'*

*'I felt special when my little brother ask s me to read his favourite book "Dear Zoo" to him'.*

Lent begins next week and during this period we often think about what we can give up, or what we can give. We will talk more about this after half term. Our worship will focus on the story of weeks leading up to the first Easter.

### **Remote Learning Parent Surveys:**

Thank you so much for responding to the parent surveys that went out last week. We have had a really good return. We will be processing these over half term and will share the headlines with you thereafter. The purpose of these surveys is the support us with our ongoing evaluations of remote learning.

### **Mr Waller:**

We are really sad to be saying goodbye to Mr Waller this half term. For the past 5 1/2 years he has been a popular and highly conscientious member of the staff team. Generous with his time, his contributions have spanned not only the working day, but supporting evening events and performances and the Friends fundraising events over weekends. It goes without saying that he will be greatly missed, not only for his work and contributions, but for his warmth and welcome, and a smile for everyone. Thank you to families for your very generous gift. Pete will move on with a gift from his colleagues, along with a school Bible, no-one leaves St Mary's without a Bible! He goes too with our love and prayers for a wonderful future in Cornwall. We know that wherever he is, those around him will soon be glad to know him as we are.



We are in the process of recruiting a caretaker and will let you know as soon as we have any further information.

**Dates:**

A few dates for your diary:

- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February: Staff training day. There will be no online learning set or Critical Worker provision on this day.
- Half term week: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February: School re-opens for arranged Critical Worker provision and online home learning resumes on Google Classroom.
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day: The children's online learning will be focused on books on this day! They will have a Google Meet on the day, and if they would like to, children can wear a book character costume, although this is not a requirement given current circumstances. Further details to follow by email.

**Return to school for all pupils:**

We are looking forward to being able to welcome all the children back at some stage, hopefully over the next half term. However, at this stage we have no indication of when this might be but will certainly let you know as soon as we know any more. The school and the staff are ready and waiting!

Thank you once again for the messages of kindness and support; they are greatly appreciated by our staff team. This has been a very challenging time for all of us.

Wishing you all a restful half term, and we really look forward to a time when we can have all of the children back in school again.

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A prayer from our worship this half term.

**Lord Jesus,  
Thank you that you are the light of the world.  
May the light of your love burn brightly today,  
Especially for those who are ill or sad,  
For those who work in the health service,  
For everyone who is missing family and friends during lockdown,  
For the elderly and the vulnerable and those who are lonely,  
For our school and all those we know when we can't be together.  
Bless each one of us with your presence and peace.  
Amen.**

**From all of us at St Mary's primary school, stay safe, stay well and our love and prayers be with you as always.**

**Maria Constantinou and Mel Adams  
Headteachers**