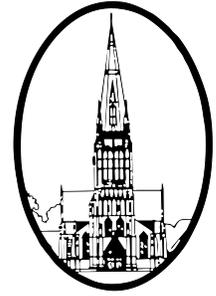


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*"St Mary's.... feeding the mind, body and spirit so we can
be the best we can be."*

30th April 2020

Hello everyone,



The weather has certainly changed this week and its feeling a lot cooler and a bit rainy! If you remember, last week I was working from my garden. Did you see what was in the photograph of my garden that showed my love of Disney? It was of course one of my Disney water bottles which you probably have seen before, as I am always drinking water from them in school! Is anyone else a Disney fan out there? I love all of the movies and it really does make me happy. Mrs McKelvey's daughter Grace is also loving Disney and this week we have been testing each other with Disney quizzes we have made up (when Mrs McKelvey and I should really be working!).

Because the weather had been nice I was inspired to do even more gardening which included ordering some plants and more compost and planting some free seeds that I got from Marks and Spencer. Well this week I am pleased to say my new plants have arrived and my seeds have started to grow. However, the compost has not arrived yet and I am unable to plant these into pots! So, I have been researching where I can buy compost but its proving pretty difficult, as is buying flour for baking. I will let you know how I get on next week and hopefully my new plants including some herbs and vegetables will be in their new homes.





This week has been extremely busy. I went to school this week to make sure everything was ok and to do some work that I couldn't do at home. I know that Mrs McKelvey, Ms Kennedy, Ms Goldman and Mr Thompson have also popped in over the past week to get jobs done too. Everything is good there, however a school is not a school without the children so it was quite strange.

As you will already know some of our children whose parents are key workers and have no other options for childcare are attending Grasmere school, alongside pupils from Grasmere and looked after by a mix of staff from both schools. At the end of last week Miss Mersha sent me some photographs of the children having lots of fun. Here are some of them.



The children are certainly having lots of fun at Grasmere. How do I know this? On Tuesday I went to Grasmere to say hello to everyone. It was great to see Mr Bentley, Miss Thomson and children and parents. I was pleased to see everyone happy, safe and well. Again, we are extremely grateful to all of the school adults at both schools for their care and enthusiasm.

For those children at home with their families, its great to know that you are having fun and doing exciting things. Last week we heard from Joe (Y6) and Ruby (Y3) who have been very busy. Ruby has designed her own t-shirt, Joe has been making lanterns and the family have been making hand prints and pictures with rainbow colours to show their appreciation for the NHS. How creative are they? Well done Ruby and Joe, these look amazing.



Last week I told you I was meeting with some teachers to talk about the development of the curriculum. Firstly, it took about 10 minutes to get everyone on the screen, seeing and hearing each other, however after that I am pleased to tell you that all of the teachers were well behaved and listened and contributed sensibly! It was great to see everyone and I did notice that Mr Clark has had a new haircut!!! We are currently working with the IT team to set up another system



for communicating, called Microsoft teams. I am hoping that this will work better for the staff and maybe we could get children using it in the future. Watch this space!

Here's an update on what some of the staff have been up to this week.

Mr Dale has been busy looking after his plants and his fish! Did you know Mr Dale built his own fish tank? That is very clever!



Miss Clark and Miss Mackay have been very creative doing some painting. Miss Clark did a painting by numbers over a couple of weeks.



I have been spending some of my spare time painting. I found it difficult at first to decide what I wanted to paint, but I have really enjoyed painting some of my favourite photographs taken on my iPhone of my home city Sunderland. One morning a few months ago I got up really early and went to watch the sunrise over the sea with my Mam and these are the paintings of those images. Maybe you could have a go at painting your favourite memory. Miss Mackay.

Over the past few weeks you may have heard about an amazing gentleman called Captain Tom Moore. He decided to try and raise a few pounds so that he could donate to the NHS to say thank you for all their help. What is special about this story is that Captain Tom Moore was walking laps of his garden to raise this money and he is elderly. Well today he is 100 years old and he has raised a fantastic 30 million pounds for the NHS. Isn't that brilliant. He has inspired many people as he has made them realise whatever your age, you can make a difference. He joined the British Army when he was a teenager and fought in World War Two (WW2).

Next week in school, we would have been celebrating a special day in history. VE Day - or 'Victory in Europe Day' which marks the day towards the end of WW2 when fighting against Nazi Germany in Europe came to an end. On 8 May 1945, Prime Minister Winston Churchill made an announcement on the radio at 3pm that the war in Europe had come to an end, following Germany's surrender the day before. Can you believe Captain Tom Moore was fighting in this war at the time and that was 75 years ago! If you are interested in learning more about this, here are some links that children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 may find interesting.

Suitable for KS2

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-ve-day/z7xtmfr>

Suitable for KS2

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52437767>





Someone else is celebrating their birthday today! Shaheim in Year 3 is 8 years old today and his family got in touch to say they had a special day planned for him. Shaheim is very excited and is looking forward to doing some fun things. These include playing his new video games and chatting with his friends and family via video calls. Tonight he will be sitting down to a lovely 3 course meal and he has chosen his favourite main meal of steak, delicious! I'm sure you will join us in sending Shaheim birthday wishes!

Remember that we all love to hear what you and your families have been up to. Please email any photographs and messages and I can put them in the newsletter. Also, if you have any other questions whether its about free school meal vouchers, childcare or anything else please email admin (above) or Mrs McKlevey bmckelvey@st-marys.hackney.sch.uk who are coordinating the communication coming in from families.

Happy clapping for the NHS tonight!.

Stay safe and happy, best wishes

Jane O'Brien
Headteacher

