



St Andrew's Newsletter

1st May 2020

Growing and learning together with God

This week has been rather wet and soggy across the country. It has also felt fairly chilly at times. I suspect that has made it more challenging for families at this already difficult time. It has also been frustrating with the constant media speculation all the time about when and how schools will reopen. Our feelings on this are very clear. We will continue to follow the official government guidance, and carry on doing what we are doing for now; supporting the children of key workers who are in school each day, and supporting all our families remotely as best we can.

There have also been some positive moments this past week, such as the 100th birthday of Captain Tom Moore, a truly inspirational man who has raised more than £30 million for the NHS. The first global Assembly

was also streamed live yesterday by the Oak Academy.



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, spoke about hope. In the Bible the definition of hope is that it is the expectation of something you don't have yet but you will have in the future because it has been promised by God. If you have not had a chance to view this yet, then there is a link on yesterday's Class Dojo school story, alongside a video of Reverend Andrew talking about this week's theme of 'looking after each other'.

'Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.' Hebrews 10 v23.

School Insights

Messages sent to families

278

675 Last week



Photos and videos shared

888

946 Last week



Positive feedback %

100%

100% Last week



Reading

"The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go."

Dr Suess

Studies have shown that children who read for pleasure have higher levels of self-esteem, empathy and a greater ability to cope with difficult situations.

Remember that you don't need a classroom. Children learn to love reading on the laptop of their parents.

If you have run out of physical books at home, then there are lots of ways to access audio books and stories online.

Communication and Contact

Thank you to everyone who is managing to keep in contact with us via Class Dojo and the class email addresses.

Please do remember that we are here to help you as much as we can during school times. You can also call the school office during school hours.

Please only use these methods to contact staff – do not try to contact staff via social media, etc. Thank you.

Children's Book Project

Ryefield Primary, The Children's Book Project and AT The Bus have joined forces to put together a unique lockdown bundle of books and creative resources to be gifted to 1,750 young people aged 3 -11 years in Hillingdon. The Children's Book Project gifts new and gently used books to children year-round, working closely with teachers to enable children and young people to choose and take home a book of their own. Their aim is that every child should have the chance to own their own books and to feel part of a wider reading community. The 'Story & Draw' pack has been designed to inspire enjoyment, creativity, escapism and emotional wellbeing amongst children as they navigate the restrictions of lockdown life and will include three age-relevant books as well as paper, pencils and other resources, for recipients to read, draw, make and dream.

Next week I will be collecting a set of free books from Ryefield Primary School. These will be gifted to our Pupil Premium families. Further details about how these will be distributed will feature in next week's newsletter.



Home-learning Packs

At the end of the Easter Holidays I said we would be providing home-learning packs to last for 2 weeks. It is almost the end of those 2 weeks, but I believe that in most cases, many children still have plenty of work in those packs to complete. I know that parents have been doing a great job to utilise the packs, as well as following some of our suggestions for online learning and creative activities, and also keeping up regular reading and physical exercise at home.

Therefore, we will not be sending more work out next week. We are confident that everyone still has plenty of activities to occupy them – remember you only need to try and do 1 English OR 1 Maths activity each day plus something creative/practical/online/fun.

We are currently preparing new packs for distribution from 11th May. These packs will contain workbooks which we have ordered for every child, plus exercise books for every child too. Further details about collecting these will be sent out next week. If you believe you have run out of work for your child to do, then please have a look at some of the online learning links we have sent out via Dojo.

If you still have lots to do, then please do not be anxious about this. Remember my words from last week's newsletter – the most important thing you can do at the moment is keep your children safe and well!

FSM Vouchers Update

I placed an order on the Edenred site last Saturday night for vouchers for families to cover the period from 15th April to 6th May.

These have finally been processed by the DfE, so families should start to see the codes coming through from today.

When you do receive your code, please do persevere with trying to convert it to supermarket vouchers. The ongoing issues with the system were featured on last night's BBC News, and again I am so sorry to those families who are experiencing huge delays and difficulties with this. Please do contact us if you have any worries about providing food for your families.

If your working circumstances have changed due to Covid-19 and you believe you may be entitled to free school meals, please do email the school office for an application form.

For more information see

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Rainbow Cupcakes

Olivia and Emily have raised £500 for the British Thyroid Foundation by baking Rainbow Cupcakes.

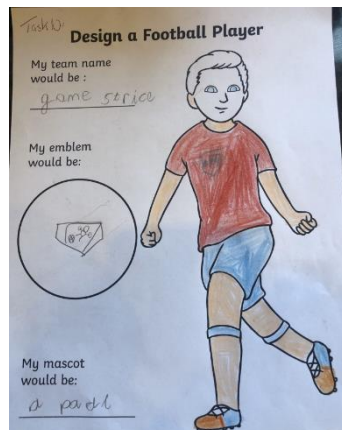
As part of the national 2.6 challenge, they decided to bake 26 cupcakes between 26th April and 3rd May to raise money for a charity that is very close to their hearts.

Well done girls.

Here is a photograph of their delicious cakes as they delivered a selection to school today for the staff and the keyworker children.



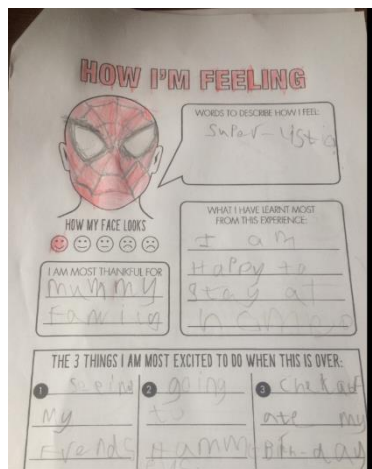
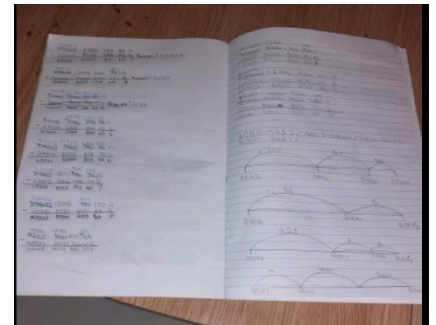
Some more amazing snapshots of the Dojo Portfolio posts.



Thank you to all the children who have written beautiful prayers for our website.

These can be viewed by following this link:

<http://www.standrewscofeprimary.co.uk/our-ethos/prayers.php#children>



Stay safe and take care.

Nicola Edwards

