



St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School



NEWSLETTER

“A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum through wisdom and love”

Telephone: 01798 872007

WB 22nd February 2021

We are so excited that the Government has announced the return to school date and we are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday 8th March**. A letter has gone out detailing all the arrangements.

Thank you – A huge thank you to you all for the commitment to home learning. This lockdown has been more difficult for many families and your perseverance and resilience has astounded the staff at school so thank you for all that you have done to keep your children learning. We know that it is a thankless task so we are saying ‘thank you’.

Questions about return – Reopening letter – The plans for reopening have been shared through a letter. It is important that you read the details. If you have any questions then please email head@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk

Mental Health of young people - Youth Mental Health Ambassador, Dr Alex George has shared his ‘top five tips’ for young people’s good mental health and wellbeing. This is live on the Department for Education’s YouTube channel. He has given advice to young people on how to improve their mood and look after themselves by eating well, getting plenty of sleep and natural light during the daytime.

Bikeability – We are pleased to say that we have managed to book ‘Bikeability’ for Year 6 pupils on the week of 29th March. This will give the Year 6 children something to look forward to for their return. Permission letters will come out shortly so please keep an eye out for these.

Class photographs – We are planning on doing class photographs on the **Wednesday 17th March**, please put this date in your diary. The children will need to be in full school uniform on this day.

World Book Day – We know that this is on Thursday 4th March but we want to wait until we reopen and celebrate together so we are having **St Mary’s World Book Day on Thursday 11th March** and would like all the **children to dress as their favourite book character**. We will be distributing the £1 vouchers during this day. It would be great to have some fun again and have a whole school event.

Parents Evening – We are running Parent’s Evenings on **Tuesday 16th and Thursday 18th March**. You will be able to sign up for a slot and the **window will open on Sunday 28th February at 7am and will close on the Monday 15th March at 4pm via School Cloud**. This will be to discuss how lockdown was for you as a family and to look at progress. Mrs Farrant is new to Sierra Leone class so please use this as a time to ‘Meet the Teacher’ and discuss how lockdown learning has gone for you and your child.

Virtual Sports – Thank you to the children who joined in with the challenges last week. This ‘virtual sports games’ has given the children something to participate in. Well done to **Adam B, Charlie K, Chené D, Elani D, Evie S, Freya C, Freya W, Gemma B, Holly M, Hugo P, James M, Jessie W, Joseph S, Olivia A, Wills K**

Music on the Menu - [Music on the Menu 25.1.21](#)

Songs of worship

KS1/EYFS – Wednesday 3rd March at 9.15am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92192724920?pwd=RTZWODJ3aGVFcTZYs2Yxbk91emJyZz09>

Meeting ID: 921 9272 4920

Passcode: 0esEJ3

Key Stage Two – Friday 5th March at 9.15am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99825071585?pwd=Wmo4Zmh1OFhLVXJ3ZkVNS004elpndz09>

Meeting ID: 998 2507 1585

Passcode: 9S90YR

Cook with Mrs Copus - Iced Fairy cakes

Ingredients

- 100g caster sugar
- 100g very soft butter
- 100g self-raising flour
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

For the icing

- 200g very soft butter
- 200g icing sugar
- food colouring, sprinkles, marshmallows etc

Method

- **STEP 1**
Ask a grown-up helper to turn the oven on to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Put a paper case in hole of a 12-hole bun tin.
- **STEP 2**
Put the sugar and butter (it must be soft or you won't be able to mix it properly) in a bowl and mix it together. Sift in the flour.
- **STEP 3**
Break the eggs into a separate bowl (spoon out any bits of shell that fall in) and add them to the bowl with the vanilla. Mix everything together.
- **STEP 4**
Divide between the cases using a spoon, scraping it off with a knife. Ask a grown-up helper to put the tray in the oven for 20 minutes.
- **STEP 5**
Mix the butter and icing sugar to make a creamy icing. Add colouring, if you like. Push an icing

Well done to all those who have been cooking at home. It was great to see **Olivia (NZ)** and **Jayden's (Tha)** biscuits and **Beatrice G (Fra)** for her pizza making.



Medication – If your child requires medication in school then please ensure they bring it to school on Monday 8th March and take any medication to the side gate with the 'Administration of medicines' form which you can find on our website. [St Mary's Medical forms.](#)

Reading books – 'A book is a gift you can open again and again'. This week we hung new books on the school fence for children to pick-up on their daily walk. We still would love children to read and tell us about the book that they chose. If you didn't get one, we will do it again on Friday



Fairtrade Fortnight – Fairtrade Fortnight is taking place this week and next. Mrs Copus has been talking about Fairtrade in her banana outfit! This year's theme is 'Choose the World You Want' – the focus is climate change and the impact that our choices can have on the world around us. We have looked at some case study examples, such as Marcial – a banana farmer from the Caribbean, Bernard – a coffee farmer from Kenya and Therese – a cocoa farmer from Côte d'Ivoire.

The children have discussed the work and aims of Fairtrade and thought about how choosing to buy Fairtrade products can support these farmers and ensure that they receive a fair price for the work that they do. The children in each year group have been set a piece of learning relating to the Fairtrade to complete. We look forward to sharing some examples of work produced with you in next week's newsletter.



Achievements - Well done to these children! Next week will be our last week so let's see if we can aspire to win this award.

- | | | | |
|------------|----------|----------------|-----------|
| UK – | Caleb D | USA – | Freddie G |
| Austria – | Eadie CC | Sierra Leone – | James M |
| Thailand – | Peter S | Mexico – | Billy B |
| France – | Noah J | China – | Stanley D |
| India – | Lewis H | South Africa – | Audrey L |
| Ireland – | Lexi A | Japan – | Aimee C |
| NZ - | Martha B | | |



Learning – Well done to **Lexi and Martha** for some amazing Geography learning.



Questionnaires – On the letter that went out there are links to 'Return To School' questionnaires. Please could you ensure your child completes their questionnaire so the staff can have shared conversations with the children on their return and set up any support that may be needed. Your child's teacher will be sharing this on your Google Classroom as well.

Outdoor activities – Have you tried Geocaching? Register for free at www.geocaching.com. There's a great video on the site showing you how to get started. It is great to find something when you are out on your walk.

Reminder - Nut Free School – We are a nut free school and this applies to all food that enters our school building and is applicable from Early Years all the way through to Year 6.

PTA News – PTA has signed up to Amazon Smile. If parents/carers are able to do their shopping via Amazon Smile, the PTA will receive a percentage of their shopping total. Just search for Friends of St Mary's Pulborough or use our charity number - 1147547. Please share with your friends and family too!



Please stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 8th March.

TEN TIPS

for sharing stories with children & young people of all ages



Sharing stories is a fantastically fun way to celebrate the joy of books and reading with children of all ages, and spark their imagination. Parents, carers, siblings and friends spending just 10 minutes a day reading with children can help to create readers for life.



1 BE PREPARED

Sharing a story should be FUN for everyone involved – even the grown-ups! Try to read through the story in advance, to avoid any surprises that might trip you up.

2 GET COMFY

Is everyone comfortable? Can you be heard? Is there enough light? If your children are easily distracted, they can draw or play quietly while you read; they'll still reap the benefits of your storytelling.

3 HOLDING THE BOOK

You should be able to read the text and your children should be able to see both the pictures and you, too. If you hold it wide open and to the side or put it between laps, you have a free hand to point out pictures or make grand gestures.

4 GET INTO CHARACTER

Don't be embarrassed to use voices and songs, as they are a great way to bring stories to life. Go high or low or change the speed from fast to slow to show the difference between characters.

5 MIX IT UP

Changing tempo grabs attention, builds suspense or adds humour. Try slowing down or speeding up for different scenes.

6 VARY THE TONE

Contrasting your tone is good for sharing both voices and narration. Try switching from monotone to musical, and whispering can also be great fun as it feels like a secret.

7 ADD MOVEMENT/PROPS

Make your movements as big or small as you like and invite children to join in. Arms and legs can become a whole host of fantastic props!

8 MAKE IT INTERACTIVE

Involve your listeners. Ask them to repeat sentences, add sound effects, count and name what they see or guess what's coming next.

9 DISCUSS AS YOU READ

Try to relate the book to other things happening in the world. By setting an example, your listeners will become active, engaged readers who make their own connections.

10 TAKE IT TO A NEW LEVEL

Challenge children with stories above their reading level. When you get to something difficult or new, stop and repeat it slowly. Tell them what it means and give other words that mean the same thing, then use it again in another context.