



All Saints CE Primary School & Nursery

Nurturing, Resilience and Achievement for all!

Headteacher: Mr Philip Asher, BMus(Hons), PGCE, ARCO, NPSOL, MCCT

Thursday, 25 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Newsletter No19

I hope you are well and keeping safe! The end of lockdown is in sight, and there is the glimmer of hope for the relaxing of restrictions later this year in the summer. Already, as I'm sure you will be too, I'm beginning to think of the things we will be able to do if... when...

But we've a little way to go before then, and as the saying goes – best not to put the cart before the horse!!

We have been very busy since Monday planning for the return of all pupils on 8th March, and I hope to have the information and details ready to send out tomorrow. The guidance has made it clear that all measures in place over the Autumn will be remaining, with the added measure of twice weekly staff testing.

However, this time – with the potential for improved weather in Spring, and now we have a Sports Coach in place, I am currently liaising with them for the return of our sports after school. We are also discussing options with Sewing Club, Art Explorers, Computer Explorers and Hip Hop. Watch this space and look out for any surveys or flyers in the coming weeks if you're interested. Restrictions will be in place, as you'd expect, and this may limit some of the activities, and some may not start until after Easter – but something is better than nothing!!

Over half term, I hope you were able to try some of the things I suggested to occupy the time – I never quite know if they're welcome or not, but sometimes it's better to have more ideas than you need than none at all!

Some news and reminders:

Parent Consultations – Monday to Friday, 4pm – 5pm next week

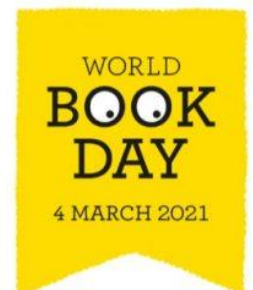
Remember the appointments are strictly 10minutes and it will cut off! Contact the office if you haven't booked an appointment yet. The booking site is now closed.

World Book Day – 3rd – 5th March

This year, the theme is 'Sharing a story'.

We'd like to challenge all the children to see how many people they can share a story with – remotely of course! Pick a favourite book or section of a book (or a different one for each person!) and get in touch with family and friends online – read a story to them. You could even have a 'virtual' bed time story session.

We're also preparing a 'Masked Reader' challenge – several members of staff will read a short bit of a story in a disguise of some form, and the challenge is to guess who it is! We're having fun making the videos – so hopefully you'll enjoy the finished thing too!



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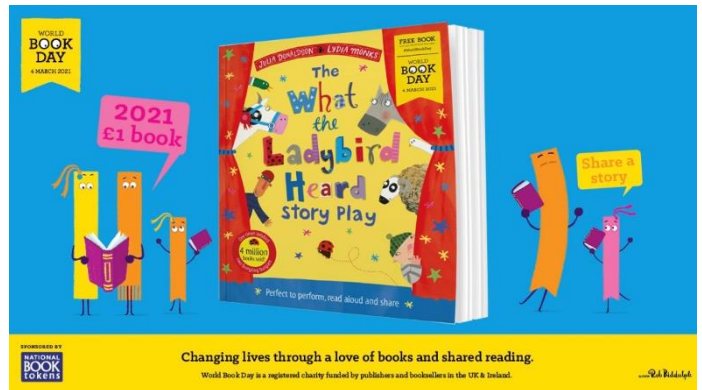
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The teachers will be planning a few other bits and pieces too for the remote learning sessions next week, so do look out for those.

We've received the vouchers and will send these out when the children are all back in school. Unfortunately, the World Book Day organisers may have forgotten there is a pandemic on at the moment, so the vouchers last until 28th March and can only be spent in person at a book shop (all closed!) or supermarket! Booksellers will honour the voucher after the 28th March while stocks last.

I suggest you look online to see the free books available from your supermarket of choice at home, pick one out together and then follow the Covid Rules and Guidance to purchase it in person on your next visit. You might also be able to contact the seller to see if they will accept the vouchers online. You can also wait until book shops open again, and chance them still having stock – they will honour the vouchers until stocks run out.



Link for this year's free books: <https://www.worldbookday.com/BOOKS/>

And the voucher can also contribute £1 to the cost of a different book priced £2.99 or more.

The Great Big Art Exhibition – we're taking part (if you want to!!)

Join in with this national event! It started on 28th January and runs until the end of April, so I hope you had chance to do some art work over half term. If not, it's still on – so have a go!

The idea is to encourage everyone to make a piece of artwork – your own theme, or inspired by an artist or anything else really! Then put it in your window at home for everyone else to see!

You can also display it in the virtual gallery – go to: <https://firstsite.uk/> to register (completely free), download the PDF pack full of inspiration and information, and also find out how to join the national virtual gallery.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) – Consultation

You may be aware that the Government launched a new statutory curriculum for Relationships and Sex Education for all schools from the Summer Term 2021. We have been working hard to prepare for this and wanted to share with parents at home what this might mean for their children and offer a chance to comment.

We will be sending out a consultation survey in the next few weeks and would encourage parents to respond. Some elements of the RSE curriculum are already included in the Science and PSHE curriculum we are already following, whereas others are separate and new. The consultation will help parents to understand better our curriculum plans for RSE and enable you to comment on them.

Thank you in advance for your help with this important process.

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NEWS FROM THE CLASSES

Roman Mosaics in Y3

Year 3 have been practicing their precision art skills by making detailed mosaics as part of their Roman work. Here's a selection of ones completed in school.





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A Prayer for the Nation –

Loving Father God,
be with us in our distress;
be with our families, friends, and neighbours,
our country and our world.
Give health to the sick,
hope to the fearful,
and comfort to mourners.
Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers,
insight to our Government,
and patience to us all.
Overcome disease with the power of your new life,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Taken from: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation>

And finally...

This week I was visited in my office by a young man who was beside himself with pride. He had finally cracked his fractions! When I asked him how he had worked out all the answers correctly, he said “I just thought about it, and counted, and it worked!! It was easy in the end, I just had to think about it.”

With all the problems and difficulties we face, there is a real joy when something turns out right, even the smallest, simplest thing – not dropping a pancake when flipping them, finally working out what that button on the TV remote does, ringing that friend we’ve always meant to keep in touch with, solving a seemingly impossible calculation... perhaps not so simple that last one! The positivity can get lost in the frustration, disappointment and struggle...

As Lockdown comes to a close, hopefully for the last time, we should take some time to reflect on all that we have achieved and all that has worked out well. There will be lots if you look carefully!

Take care, keep safe, - see you soon! – and remember to wash your hands!

Kind regards,
Philip Asher, *Headteacher*

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Additional Help for Families

Below are a list of organisations and places you can find help and support if you need it:

- Aspects Family Support - <http://www.aspects.org.uk/> or telephone 01279 758134
- Citizens Advice Bureau - 03444 111 444 or: <https://citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/>
- Children's Centre - <https://www.hertsfamilycentres.org/family-centres.aspx>
- Bishops Stortford Food Bank – bsfoodbank.coordinator@gmail.com or on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pg/bsfoodbank/about/?ref=page_internal
- Hertfordshire Children's Services – <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/childrens-social-care/childrens-social-care.aspx> or 0300 123 4034
- Family Lives - <https://www.familylives.org.uk/> or telephone 0808 800 2222
- Action for Children - <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/what-we-do/parents-and-families/>
- NSPCC - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>
- Childline - <https://www.childline.org.uk/> or telephone 0800 1111
- School Nursing Team - <https://www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/school-nursing/>
- Stay Strong website: www.staystrong.org.uk

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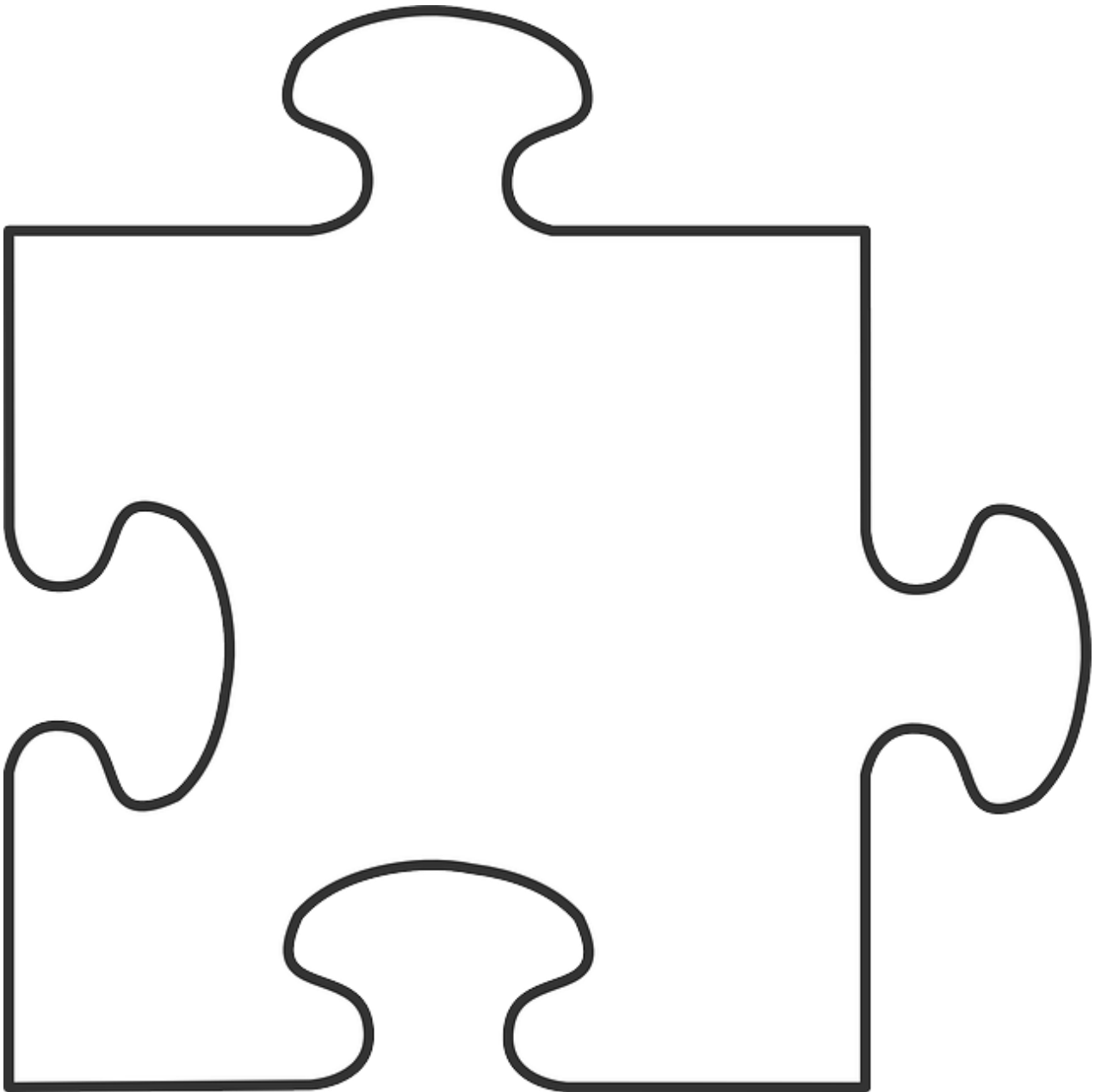
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DON'T FORGET TO DO A PUZZLE PIECE TO BRING IN TO SCHOOL WHEN WE RETURN ON 8th MARCH! We'll put them all on display in the hall.

We are all part of the puzzle and we all have a part to play in these difficult times. Fill the puzzle piece below with words, drawings, colours, collage etc. that represent you or your family. When we return to school, bring it in and we'll add it to the school puzzle display.

If you can't print this out at home, draw your own jigsaw puzzle outline and use that!



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