



## census 2021

As we are sure that everyone is aware, the Census takes place this Sunday. The Census is a 10-yearly event in which every household in the country answers the same questions. We have taken this opportunity to educate our children about its purpose and have linked it to a range of curriculum areas. The Year 6s, for example, found it strange that during the last Census, they were either 1 or 0! And during the next one, they will be 20 or 21.

The whole school took part in a variety of counting exercises. These included counting traffic; counting birds; counting trees and counting different eye colour. The children then explored ways of presenting their results ready for a whole school display, which will be entered into the 'Let's Count' competition. The image shows the heights of trees on our school grounds.



We have all really enjoyed participating in the Tees Valley 'Let's Dance' Project this week in school. Children from Year 1 to Year 6 learnt a dance to the song 'Better When I'm Dancing', using teaching videos from The D Project. All the children were really excited and very keen to participate, and everyone tried their best. It's been lovely seeing the children being able to express themselves through dance - there were some fantastic moves in the freestyle section! We are very proud of our performance video, which can be viewed on the school Facebook page and Class Dojo.



Thank you so much to all those parents who have completed our short survey on Home learning. If you haven't yet done so we would be very grateful if you could access it via this [link](#)



We were so sad to send our first class bubble home following a positive test. It is important not to be lulled into complacency that the virus is going away;

infection rates in Darlington are amongst the highest in the north east. Please help to keep the infection rate down by continuing to follow the government guidance and not leave home unless necessary. It is worrying to hear children talking about going to their friend's house for tea and mixing with other households. You can spend time outdoors with your household or support bubble, or with one other person.



1 in 3 people with Covid-19 do not have symptoms, but are still infectious and can give the virus to

others. The test usually involves taking a sample from your tonsils and your nose, using a swab and you will receive a result within 30 minutes. Households with primary or nursery children can take part in regular testing at home, so that the more positive cases are found to try and break any chains of transmission. Rapid testing detects cases quickly, meaning anyone who tests positive can isolate immediately, which may prevent classes being sent home due to an outbreak. You can access lateral flow tests by ordering on line [here](#) or phoning 119.

## What do NASA, cars and parachutes have in common?

Year 4 enjoyed taking part in the 'UTC South Durham STEM Primary Challenge'! The children were tasked with making an origami monster and found out how origami is used for many different things. They were very interested in how NASA uses origami to send their satellites to space! With lots of patience and determination, the children were successful and made some brilliant creations.



## Green Tree Winter Twig ID

Last week, a Green Tree challenge box was delivered to each classroom. Inside each box was a selection of twigs from the trees on our school field. Just by looking at the twigs, and observing the shape and colour of the buds, the children had to identify which trees they had come off. We all know that children at St John's love a challenge, and they did not disappoint! A busy afternoon was spent researching trees and trying to identify the twigs. Well done to everyone who took part, especially Freddie from Reception who particularly loved the challenge. The next Green Tree challenge box will be delivered in the summer term, and it will involve identifying leaves rather than buds.



## Kids of 2020 Letter Writing Project

Year 6 have taken part in a letter writing competition run by the Postal Museum and National Literacy Trust. The children have written letters to an imaginary child in 2030 telling them about what life was like in 2020. Winning letters will be exhibited online and in real life too! We are crossing our fingers and will let you know if anyone is selected.



Today is Comic Relief. All week the school has taken part in the Times Tables Rock Stars 'Comic Relief Challenge.' As always, the children receive virtual money for each correct answer they give on TTRS. For this week, they can spend their money on a virtual red nose for their avatar and Times Tables Rock Stars will donate 5p for every red nose bought. At the time of writing, the challenge is still open, but we will let you know how St. John's did.

## Darlington Does 'Denim for Dementia'

Our Mayor, Councillor Chris McEwan, is inviting schools across the town to join together to support Dementia Friendly Darlington. So on **Friday 26th March** the children will be invited to wear something denim (non uniform) and make a small donation to support this very worthy cause, which affects so many of our families. It would be very helpful if donations were single coins e.g. £1 or 50p where possible.



The overall attendance this week is 94.88 %.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Week 4	96.4%	97.3%	99.3%	96.6%	96.5%	97.9%	95%