



Newsletter

Issue 20
23rd April 2021

Guided by God, to be the best that we can be.



Our Christian value this half term is forgiveness. Forgiving one another, as Jesus taught us by his example is the message we try to follow at St. John's. Forgiving ourselves and others can be challenging but we learn that mistakes are good and an important way to get better at things.

At St John's we develop our value of forgiveness through: modelling it to one another; looking at Christian stories in worship (Prodigal Son); discussing how we can forgive when things go wrong; teaching what a sincere apology means; celebrating when a child forgives and moves on and remembering that every day is a chance for a fresh start.



Today, 23rd April is St. George's Day, the patron saint of England (although he wasn't actually English!) and scouting. He is famous for killing a dragon which guarded the only well in the town of Silene and saving a princess. After he killed the dragon, the people were so pleased that they had access to water that they turned to Christianity. He became a martyr because he refused to make sacrifices to the Roman gods.



Zoos, ethical or unethical?



During their English lessons this term, Year 4 have been considering if zoos should remain open or should close down for good. They have had some brilliant discussions as a class and really enjoyed finding out more about why zoos are important from a zoo keeper who worked with giraffes at Chester Zoo! This week the children were so lucky to compare this to Mr Ramsay's farm and the animals that live there. We were able to discuss all the pros and cons of this and had an exciting visit from some of Mr Ramsay's chicks!



Our STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) after-school club got underway this week, with our first challenge! We cleared a raised bed in the allotment and planted vegetables. The next challenge is to design a structure which will protect the seedlings from both the frost and the birds (but still let in the light). Watch this space!



Jason Grant, a Coach from Newcastle Thunder, came in to school to teach Year 4 how to play Rugby League.

The class had a fantastic training session learning the rules and skills used in this very challenging sport. It was lovely to welcome a visitor and see the children back out on the field enjoying the weather.

A new Rugby League club called the Darlington Dragons will be starting in May at Eastbourne Sports Complex. More information will follow, so keep your eyes peeled!



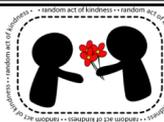
Year 5 are taking part in the '100 Books to Read before you are 11' project. With the support of Darlington Library who will provide us with the books, we have taken up the challenge to read 100 titles (as a class) by the end of the summer term. The project is designed, not only to promote a love of books (something we are always in favour of, but also to encourage children to read a wide range of material - some of it quite challenging! This helps the children to develop their reading skills but also to become aware of well-loved classics and supports their progress in writing. We have got off to a fantastic start and are already eagerly awaiting the next box.

census 2021

The children enjoyed learning about the census and its importance. We have been asked to encourage parents to complete the statutory census questionnaire, if you haven't already done so, which only takes about 10 minutes. Failure to do so may result in a fine. Field Officers will be operating in the Lascelles area to offer support and encouragement to residents - they will always carry ID. More information is attached.

The children enjoyed learning about the census and its importance.

Some parents have been asking if they will be allowed to bring gift/cards at the end of term. Since the rates of infection are continuing to fall, we think this will be possible. However please do not feel that a gift is necessary; staff very much appreciate your support and kind words/messages.



SUPER LEARNER

Week ending: 23rd April 2021



Rec	Jacob Cooney—for working extremely hard on his handwriting.
	Amelia Rose Smith—for demonstrating a good understanding of "taking away".
Year 1	Cecilia Slater-Super sentences with capital letters and full stops.
	Billy Smith-Wonderful writing about 'Birds in Spring'
Year 2	Leo Broadbent—a fantastic effort when writing about the magic of the railway lamp.
	Kaiden Rowley—showing super determination when learning to use his 5 times tables.
Year 3	Amelia Hadland—for a super attitude to her learning, and producing writing to be very proud of!
	Heidi Evans—for a wonderful attitude to all of her learning.
Year 4	Archie Green—for a wonderful attitude to his writing and being proud of his achievements .
	Maisie Nicholson— for her brilliant commitment to learning the structure of a discussion text and producing a marvellous piece of writing.
Year 5	Max Watson—for giving 100% effort across all subjects and after school clubs. Keep it up Max!
	Cherise Hill— for her committed and hard working attitude across all subjects. Well done Cherise.
Year 6	Louis Zeng—Improved participation and enthusiasm in class. You have contributed some excellent responses this week.
	Jayden Stanard—Huge improvements in maths. This is because of a more positive attitude and better participation.

ABSENCE = LOST OPPORTUNITY

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem much but.....

If your child misses.....	That equals....	Which is.....	Over 13 years of schooling, that's.....
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	over 2 ½ years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	nearly 8 years

But what about 10 minutes late a day?

He/she is missing just	That equals....	Which is.....	Over 13 years of schooling, that's.....
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	nearly 1½ weeks per year	nearly ½ year
20 mins per day	1hr 40mins per week	over 2 ½ weeks per year	nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	1/2 day per week	4 weeks per year	nearly 1 year
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	over 2 ½ years

Unfortunately, the children have missed so much school during the pandemic which has had an impact on many of the children. It is essential that unless children are poorly or needing to self-isolate, that they are in school every day and on time. Requests for leave of absence will not be granted unless there are 'exceptional' circumstances - holidays are not exceptional circumstances. Thank you for your cooperation.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Week 2	87.9%	98.6%	95.3%	94%	96.7%	97.2%	93.2%

There's still
time to **take part**
in the census

Filling in the census is everyone's
responsibility.
We can help you complete yours today.

Office for National Statistics



it's about us
census2021

There has been a great response to Census 2021, but to avoid getting a knock at the door from a field officer then please encourage your household to complete its census questionnaire.

Millions of households across England and Wales have already made sure they count when it comes to planning and provision of the key services we all rely upon, like GP surgeries, school places, and hospital beds, by filling out their online census form.

However, it is vital everyone who hasn't yet responded does so as soon as possible now Census Day, March 21, has been and gone.

Field officers are already out and about and will visit households who have not submitted their census. The operation will reach its peak next week so more officers will be knocking at doors where our records show there has been no response.

"Census 2021 has gone brilliantly so far," Office for National Statistics director of operations Pete Benton said. "The overwhelming majority of people across England and Wales have already taken part and we've heard some great stories: from those completing their tenth census to those completing their first.

"But, for us to have the most accurate picture of the whole population, we need everyone to fill in their questionnaire. By doing so you will be helping shape the local services in your community – the bus routes, school places, the hospital beds. You can do it easily online, but for those who want help, we have a range of census support centres open across England and Wales, and paper forms are available for those who need them.

"Everyone is required by law to respond to the census and if you do so now you won't be fined."

The census questionnaire is simple, straightforward, and safe to complete online. It only takes 10 minutes per person in a household.

The role of field officers is to give help and encouragement to those who have not yet filled in their census questionnaire online or on paper after Census Day and direct them to the support services they need.

Field staff will never need to enter people's houses; they will always be socially distanced, be equipped with PPE and work in line with all government guidance.

They will be operating in the same way as a postal or food delivery visit. They also carry ID to show they are genuinely working on the census.

The census is a unique survey of all households in England and Wales. To be truly representative, it needs everyone to be counted.

All households will have been sent a letter in the post in early March with instructions for taking part. If you have lost the letter or have a second address you have not visited, go to [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk) to request an online completion code for your address via SMS text message. You'll find all the help you need online, or you can visit one of our local census support centres where you can get help to fill out your form.

Kind regards.

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