ST JOHN THE BAPTIST RCP SCHOOL

Headteacher's Note

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 22nd May 2020



Dear Parents

We have come to the end of what has been the most challenging and strangest of half terms in my whole career. I hear stories of people being bored during lock down and of them decorating their whole house and finishing gardening projects. To be honest I am slightly envious of these people as my experience and indeed the teacher's experience of lockdown is very different.

During lockdown we have had to learn new ICT skills in order to continue to provide engaging learning opportunities for our children. We have had to adjust how we work and yet stay connected and still move school improvement forward. Our work load has in fact increased and working straight 15 hours days on a PC hardly makes a dent in the 'to do box' and certainly not my email inbox! However, we are remaining positive and have adapted and even embraced some of the changes. The most difficult aspect for us all has been coping with how much we are missing the children. School is just an empty shell without them and we can't wait to be able to open the doors to all the classrooms once more.

Yesterday we had an Emergency Governor meeting and they were keen to ensure that the teachers do get a break over the half term and that is why school will be closed as of today – even for the keyworker children. I have to say this has been welcomed by the staff team, myself included! I am going to be making a personal pact/challenge for me NOT to open any emails for four whole days so as to give myself a complete break and to recharge the batteries. I may even join the nation and bake a cake, make some bread, paint the house and even do some gardening!

Please note that I will actively be encouraging the staff to do the same and all staff will be putting out of office hours on their email accounts. No work will be set for the children during half term and it is important that they do experience a break too.



I will be meeting with the Governors again next week to further review the situation in regards to activating a phased return for specific year groups and as always I will keep you informed as soon as I have any information.

Best wishes to you all, enjoy your lockdown half term and stay safe.

Mrs McKeating



NOTICE

In the week beginning

1st June 2020

St Johns School will re-open its doors for:

Key Worker Childcare Only

NO OTHER YEAR GROUPS WILL BE RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN THIS WEEK

Online learning will be set for all classes Nursery-Y6



May is the Month of Mary

We are celebrating Mary, the mother of Jesus in many ways. Our children have made Mary gardens and altars, their own special Rosary beads and our keyworker children even had a small crowning of Mary ceremony in our school chapel.

Please visit our 'Religious life of our school' page on the website to see beautiful pictures of activities done at home and videos of our Mary Celebrations. Thanks to Miss Dewhurst and Mrs Taylor for keeping our May traditions going during school closure.

Office Staff and Use of the School Hatch and Porch

Please could I remind parents that the office is open for essential school business only.

Mrs Melvin and Mrs Conroy are taking turns to working from home or be in the office. We have marked out a safety square on the floor in the porch and put a 2m marker line on the office floor for staff to stand behind.

Please help us by:

- Standing in the marked area
- Not leaning on the shelf or touching any unnecessary resources.
- Using Parent Pay for all payments to school
- Helping yourself to the exercise books that are in baskets - no need to ask or consult with staff
- Not touching doors or walls - the front door will be fixed in the open position when the school is open.

Please keep praying for one of our parents who is very poorly in hospital.

Let us remember all our families who are concerned for loved ones or struggling at this time.





Half Term Closure

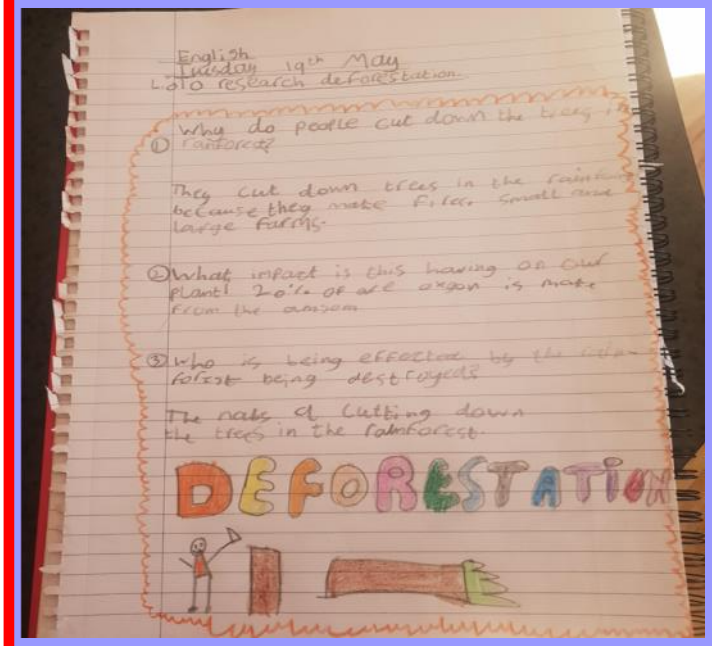
School will close from today to all staff and children for one week so that everyone can take a well earned rest and recharge their batteries.

This decision was not taken lightly but the Governors felt it necessary to give everyone a time to switch off from online activities, emails and blogs.

Please do try and get out in the fresh air as a family and take a break from screens and social media.

REMINDER:

NO ADDITIONAL PUPILS will be returning to school on 1st June 2020 other than those of key workers.











PICTURES OF THE WEEK!





Virtual Learning at Home

Top Blogger/Emailer



Yr 1 Emily Baines
Yr 2 Kian Judge
Yr 3 Theo Fort

Yr 4 Grace Woodcock
Yr 5 Izabella Lennox
Yr 6 Lillia Bradford

Home Learning Award

Yr N Ella Atkinson
Yr R Marko Reeves
Yr 1 Joshua Pennell
Yr 2 Rafael Pinto
Yr 3 Phoebe Ormerod
Yr 4 Libby Mount
Yr 5 Emily Jean Willott
Yr 6 Jake Holden





Teacher Email Contacts

NurseryB_Home@st-john.lancs.sch.uk	Mrs Barker
NurseryJ_Home@st-john.lancs.sch.uk	Miss Kidd
Recp_Home@st-john.lancs.sch.uk	Mrs Collins
Year1_Home@st-john.lancs.sch.uk	Mrs Clough
Year2_Home@st-john.lancs.sch.uk	Miss Dewhurst
Year3_Home@st-john.lancs.sch.uk	Miss Townson
Year4_Home@st-john.lancs.sch.uk	Mr Steele
Year5_Home@st-john.lancs.sch.uk	Miss Hartley
Year6J_Home@st-john.lancs.sch.uk	Mrs Jones
Year6B_Home@st-john.lancs.sch.uk	Mrs Baird



Social Distancing Advice from Burnley Borough Council to consider in the Half Term Break:

Playgrounds

The greatest risks of transmission are in playgrounds where social distancing doesn't operate and where children and parents are touching items of equipment.

Parks

In line with the Government's recently updated instructions around the use of public open spaces, we have re-opened the car parks at Towneley Park. People are able to use parks and open spaces as frequently as they wish providing that they maintain social distancing of two metres from people outside their household.

The risk of infection outside is significantly lower than inside, so the Government is updating the rules so that, as well as exercise, people can now also spend time outdoors subject to:

- not meeting up with any more than one person from outside your household
- continued compliance with social distancing guidelines to remain two metres (6ft) away from people outside your household
- good hand hygiene, particularly with respect to shared surfaces

People may exercise outside as many times each day as they wish. For example, this would include angling and tennis.

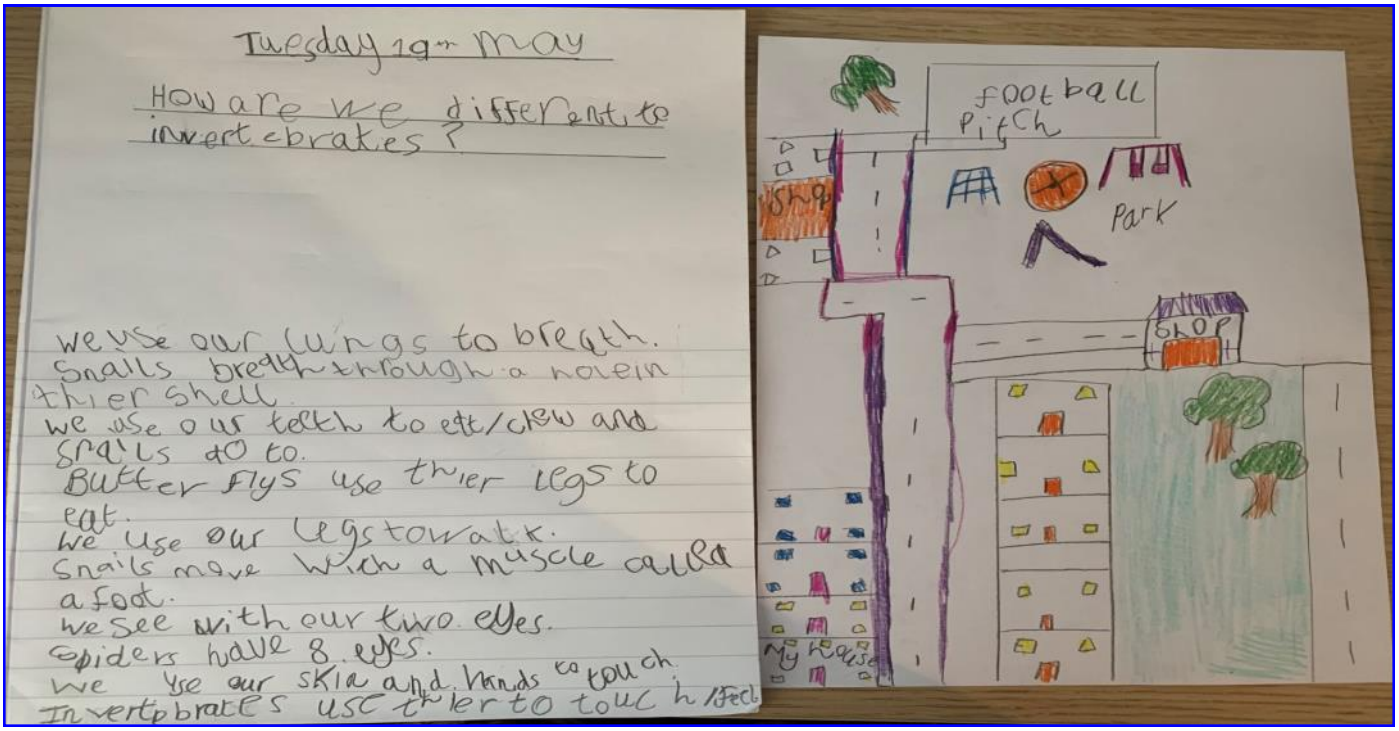


<u>You will still not be able to use areas like playgrounds, outdoor gyms or ticketed outdoor leisure venues, where there is a higher risk of close contact and touching surfaces.</u>

You can only exercise with up to one person from outside your household – this means you should not play team sports, except with members of your own household.

People may drive to outdoor open spaces irrespective of distance, so long as they respect social distancing guidance while they are there, because this does not involve contact with people outside your household.

Play areas, toilets, cafes and sports facilities remain closed.









Our Nursery children are keeping cool with water songs and play!