

St Saviour's School



Newsletter

'Achieve, Respect, Co-operate'

October 2020

Autumn Term 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Saviour's School,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. It has been a busy few weeks and we are now well and truly into the swing of things at school. The learning I have seen taking place around the school, from Nursery to Year 6, has been of really high quality. It is clear the staff and pupils are all working hard! Well done to all of them.

Parent/Teacher check-in calls

Next week we will be holding check-in telephone consultations for parents who have requested this from the teacher in Years 1-6 (Nursery and Reception classes are doing things slightly differently). Thank you for returning your forms promptly and for selecting a time slot that is most convenient to you. Doing things differently has been a learning curve for many of us and having heard of the difficulties some schools have had with using technology we have decided to keep things simple and make contact via telephone. You will only receive a telephone call so there is no need to look out for an email link or similar.

On the day, and within the time slot you selected, the teacher will give you a ring. Please listen out for the phonecall during this time slot, either 3.15pm-4.30pm OR 4.30-5.35pm. We appreciate it is a rather large window but have built in some flexibility to allow the teacher to be able to contact you twice within the timeframe. Due to having so many calls to make, please remember the time slot is for a 10 minute discussion – the call may get cut off after 10 minutes. Should you wish to have a more in-depth discussion, please contact the teacher to request this outside of these sessions.



Things we are working on:

We are almost half-way through the first term and are focussing upon our main aims for this school year. The following are some of the key areas we continue (some we began last year but due to school closure did not complete) or are beginning to develop:

- We are focusing on developing maths throughout the school and recently had a school audit supported by the maths adviser for the island, Mr Parkinson. The outcomes of the audit will help us to further develop our maths teaching and learning and we are focusing on this in our school INSET on Friday 23rd October. Mr Parkinson noted that 'Staff conscientiously plan lessons with the aim of supporting all children their class. Across the school, the positive impact of the planning was evident in the lesson drop ins and book scrutiny.'
- We are developing our teaching throughout the school to provide 'challenge for all'. Through the use of evidence based research approaches within teaching and learning we will develop deeper level thinking skills and improve reasoning and vocabulary.
- We continue to update our Counter Bullying Policy and developing a clear, consistent approach to bullying in school based on up to date research and evidence. We are already working closely with Dr Graham Ramsden (Educational Psychologist, Education Department) and have staff training rearranged for November. There will also be a session for parents, which is planned for Thursday 14th January at 6pm, please put this date in your diary. Details will follow nearer the time.

News from around the school

Nursery

The Nursery children have settled so well and have been incredibly busy. They have been learning about bugs and looking out for them in the environment. They are particularly enjoying the 'home' areas inside and out and can be found serving up many delicious snacks and some interesting drinks! Its been incredible how quickly the pupils have adapted to their new Nursery routines – well done everyone!

Reception

We have had a fantastic first few weeks in Reception. We have been learning through play focusing on the children's interests for example: water play, bikes and scooters, small world play (dinosaurs, animals, dolls) and Seasonal changes. Recently we have been learning how to retell stories with characters such as The Gruffalo, Room on the Broom and The Three Bears. In Maths we have been counting, recognising and ordering our numbers to 12. We have also been finding and making repeated patterns and ordering objects by size. Our focus has been working hard on writing our name but still need some practice this at home, remembering to encourage all lower-case letters after the first capital letter.

The children have also enjoyed showing their Autumnal objects they have been collecting with their families and learning more about them.

Year 1

Year 1 have settled in well to their learning. We have been practising to read and write our numbers and counting, as well as adding and subtracting. We have enjoyed planting our broad beans and made some observations whilst watching them grow. We have been exploring our dinosaur topic and have shared what we know and what we would like to find out. Here are some pictures of learning in Year 1.



Year 2

Year 2 have settled into the new term well. We have been developing our writing skills through our learning journey about a kind and gentle knight. In Year 2 we have been learning lots about castles and the people that would have once lived in them. Within Maths, we have been learning lots about different units of measure and we are now potion making experts. Fantastic work Year 2!

Year 3

In Year 3 we have been really busy learning about plants as part of our science work and Farm School Project. This project has been so much fun and we have been able to grow our own vegetables that we can take home on our last session. In particular, we have enjoying looking after the pigs and chickens. Ask your child about the famous Captain Scarlett! We have also been preparing to write letters in writing, based on our current text focus, these letters are really impressive so far!

Year 4

Would you prefer a thistlewump or a snugglebob as your pet? Year 4 are reading fantasy genre books and have imagined their own fantasy pet using made up words and rich describing vocabulary. Did you know that that cloud cats have milky white fur or that a bugu baby scratches and howls all night? We've got pets with banana yellow scales on their spikey tails that need to be feed on rainbows and starshine and others that have a carnivorous diet of chunks of raw meat and are as large as a house. As long as you can paint a picture with your words so your reader can imagine your pet, anything is possible!

Year 4 have also been carrying out experiments into conductivity by testing whether electricity can travel through different materials in an electrical circuit. They can identify conductors and insulators and can tell you some rules about how to be safe with electricity in the home.

Year 5

Year 5 have been fully emerged in their class topic of Space. They were lucky enough to have an astronomer, Neil Mahrer from the Jersey astronomy club, come to talk to them about all things 'space themed'. Their questioning was excellent. The class have also been lucky enough to take part in the French experience where they receive 3 hours of quality French each week taught by 2 specialist teachers on island. The specialist teachers are amazed at how they have progressed in such a short space of time. Keep up the hard work Year 5.

Year 6

Year 6 have been working on their History topic, WW2. So far, they have been researching and learning about; evacuation, rationing, the blitz, the world leaders and looked at maps to see which countries were under Allie or Axis control. In Literacy they have been looking at an animation based on the D-Day landings and have produced some amazing scene descriptions. In Science they have been carrying out investigations to understand more about light.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries. You can email or telephone me.

Kirstie Williams

KIRSTIE WILLIAMS (HEADTEACHER)