

ST JOHN'S TIMES

SCHOOLS SET TO RETURN AFTER LOCKDOWN 3



Empty Classrooms



Key Worker Children- Just a handful of children in school

Back to School

Boris Johnson has announced that all schools will fully reopen from 8th March 2021. For most children it has been 77 days since they were last in a classroom. This is the 3rd National Lockdown in the UK in the last year but The Prime Minister has told us that the coming spring and summer would be “seasons of hope, looking and feeling comparably better for us all”. Life is going to slowly start coming back to normal. This is possible because of UK’s coronavirus vaccine rollout which suggests it is having a “spectacular impact on stopping serious illness” The vaccines have been created by scientists from all over the world who have worked tirelessly to discover and test the best vaccines. Historically developing and producing vaccines took many years but thanks to technology, very clever people and a common goal to conquer this disease the vaccine was made in record time.



Alisha Working From Home

Remote Schooling

BY MEGAN AND AMELIA

It has been almost 12 months since we first went into lockdown. It has been hard for many families, children, teachers and businesses. However, many people are trying to stay active in lockdown for example: cycling, online fitness classes, and going out for a morning jog, it can be hard to keep yourself entertained and fit. In UK teachers have provided zoom classes, work packs, and video recorded learning for the children to keep learning and be educated. It has been good having our lessons set but it is not the same as being at school. A few children are still allowed to attend schools, as their parents are keyworkers for example: NHS or working in essential food shops. I have found lockdown hard, it is isolating and I miss my family and friends, I know many others feel the same, we just have to keep going and just hope it’s over soon.

Amelia is able to attend school as her parents are keyworkers. The school feels very different with so few children, the most we have is 50 that is just under 25% of the school population. There are different ‘bubbles’ and you have to always stay in your bubble. The teachers produce the lessons and children in school follow the instructions exactly the same as the children who are remote schooling. Amelia said “I am always looking forward to class Zoom calls so we can see everyone together...I miss everyone at school because it always is nice being together whether it is the teachers, friends, staff or family “ Amelia knows that these are tough times for many people, “everything might feel scary at the moment but we can get through it together by staying safe.”

When the school returns on 8th March there are lots of fun activities planned with a big emphasis on PHSCE to help children integrate easily back into school life.

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NSPCC AND INSIDE OUT DAY UPDATES

JOKES, QUIZZES & PROBLEM PAGE

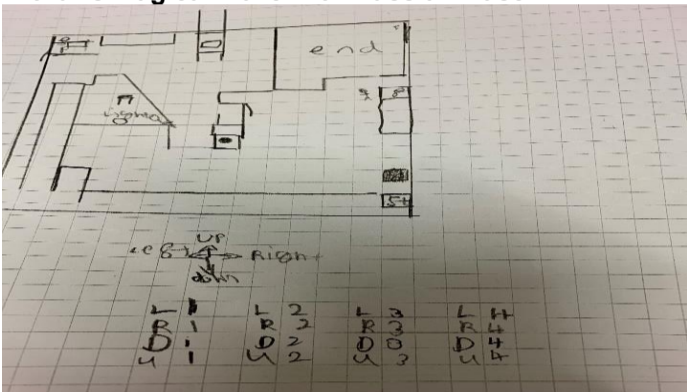
FEATURE DAYS

A busy February celebrating Number and Inside Out Day

ARTHUR SUMS UP A GOOD DAY

Number Day was great fun, we took part in lots of different activities to help us learn more about maths in a fun and interactive way. I really enjoyed making a maze, some of my friends made stars and I went on BBC Bitesize and had to make the mythical dragon defeat goblins, elves and dragons. It was great fun! We all dressed up in number day outfits too. What's your favourite number? Mine is 11.

Arthur's Magical Maze with Russian Base



A High Five from Tyler

HAVE A LAUGH

Funny Jokes

LOGAN AND REECE

WHAT DO YOU CALL A PIG THAT DOES KARATE ?

A PORK CHOP.

WHERE DO SWIMMERS SIT TO EAT?

AT THE POOL TABLE.

WHAT IS AN ARTIST'S FAVOURITE BRAND OF SHOES?

SKETCHERS.

WHICH FOOTBALL TEAM LOVES ICECREAM?

ASTON VANILLA.

WHAT IS A TRAIN THAT EATS TOFFEE CALLED?

A CHEW CHEW TRAIN.



Inside Out Day- February 2021

In the same week we celebrated Inside Out Day, this is a day when we stop to think about how we are feeling and also how other people might be feeling. We found out that sometimes people might look happy but inside they maybe feeling down in the dumps, that's why we should always be nice to everyone, we have no idea if they are having a rubbish day but by being nice and kind we can make their day better. We also found out that if we are feeling upset or worried we should tell a trusted grown up, talking makes us feel better. If we keep our unhappy feelings bottled up it can affect even the fun things we do. **Remember IT'S OK NOT TO BE OK (it's also OK to be OK!)**

Miss Shorrock, Albert and Mason wearing their tops inside out.



Double Trouble

HARRY

Have a go at doubling these numbers

32859495 x 2

6595393795 x 2

Too hard?

Let's try some more

459 x 2

837 x 2

678 x 2

Now a little harder

1670 x 2

7805 x 2

5868 x 2

Now you completed it you're amazing. Now mark it and see how many you got!



BRAIN MATTERS

Question and Quiz Time

MRS T AND MRS T ANSWER YOUR PROBLEMS

Over the last few weeks school have kept in touch with all children by regular phone calls home. A few children have had a few worries so the 2 Mrs T's have written some of the common ones;

1. I'm worried about going back to school.
2. Why do I feel nervous?
3. Will I remember what to do?
4. I will miss my mum and being at home
5. How will I get up in time?
6. Is school safe?

It is perfectly normal to feel apprehensive about returning to school. You have been away for so long that you may have forgotten what school is like. Also you have developed your own routines at home, you've probably been wearing your pyjamas all day and the thought of early mornings is frankly, quite alarming!! However you have shown that you can easily adapt to change and we can pretty much guarantee by home time on your first day back you will feel like you've never been away. Of course you will miss your grown ups but just think how nice it will be to spend 'quality time' with them again without them constantly nagging you to get on with your school work.

At school we know that some children have struggled more than others with home learning, we have all been busy preparing lessons to ease you ALL back into school so please don't worry about that. We just want you all back and we will take one day at a time approach. School is very safe, Mrs Galloway, Mrs Hicks and Miss Johnston have written a very long risk assessment which is full of rules for keeping us all safe.

WE HAVE BEEN THINKING OF SOME RESILIENT MOVES TO HELP YOU BACK TO SCHOOL

Be Positive- think of all the great things about being back, seeing your friends, playing outside, learning new things and looking forward to weekends again.

Be Brave- we will all feel a bit scared but this is time to put on your imaginary Super Hero Cape.

Be Organised- get your uniform ready and set an alarm clock!

Speak Out- talk to a grown up, tell them how you are feeling.

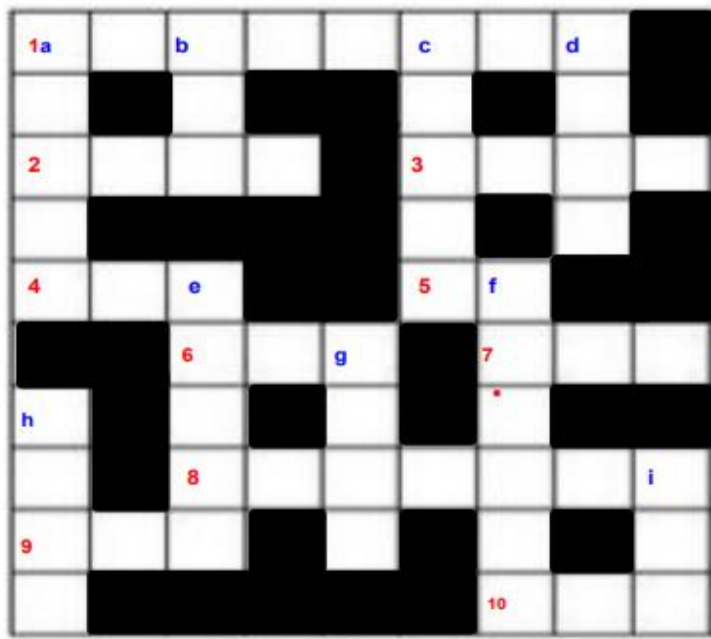
Be Mindful- fill your brain with something else rather than overthinking. Oscar and Safia have sent these quizzes in, why don't you have a go? You might even win a prize!

Harry Potter Quiz

Hogwarts at St John's.

SAFIA

1. What House at Hogwarts does Harry Potter belong to?
2. What position does Harry play on his Quidditch Team?
3. How did Harry get the scar on his forehead?
4. What does the Sorcerer's Stone do?
5. Who is Fluffy?
6. What Power do the dementors have over people?
7. What does the Imperious Curse do?
8. Who is Mad Eye Moody?
9. What is a quorum?
10. Who kills Professor Dumbledore?



- Across**
1. Head teacher, Mrs. _____.
 2. It's not up, it's _____.
 3. Blackpool is not a city, it's a _____.
 4. 'We' is me and _____.
 5. A sound that you make when you laugh.
 6. It wasn't then, it is _____.
 7. I'm happy, not _____.
 8. Every day, we learn math and _____.
 9. One of two things that help us to hear.
 10. A space between two things.

- Down**
- a. When I'm excited, I'm _____.
 - b. It's not high, it is _____.
 - c. We _____ our classroom videos.
 - d. When I'm tired, I sometimes _____.
 - e. Go _____ the bridge, not over it.
 - f. I get help in class by _____ for it.
 - g. A happy dog _____ their tail.
 - h. I _____ emotions.
 - i. Jump on one foot.

LOCKDOWN CROSSWORD: compiled by Oscar L and his mum. Can you work out the answers to the quizzes? If so bring your answers to school next week and here will be a prize for the winning entry drawn at random. All entries to be in by Friday 13th March.

INSIDE SCOOP

Interview with Mrs Galloway

MCKENZIE

Before half term McKenzie interviewed Mrs Galloway over Zoom. Here's what he found out...

1. Have you always wanted to be a teacher?

I think so, at first I wanted to be in musical theatre but people said I couldn't sing so that put a stop to that! At school everyday is a performance, so I think I made a good choice!

2. How long have you been Head Teacher for?

I've actually been a Head Teacher 3 times at St John's, twice I was temporary so I had a few practices first. I've been doing it for real for about 18 months. When Mrs Hall told me she was leaving I was shocked but it's turned into a nice shock.

3. Which University did you go to?

When I went to University (about 100 years ago), I went to Chester College which was part of Liverpool University.

4. Do you ever come across difficult parents?

I don't think parents are difficult but sometimes they are upset about something happening with their own child. I try and do the best I can for all families and children.

5. What would you like to change about our school?

If I could I would love a field for the children to play in, we are lucky though as we can go to Stanley Park and the beach.

Also I would like it for all children to get back to school full time!

6. How do you find new teachers?

Depends on the year group- I write an advert and ask if you would like to work at St John's. I would then go to their school and watch them teach a lesson. Then I interview them. Who fits best gets the job, it's quite a complex procedure.

7. Have you ever sacked a teacher?

I have never sacked a teacher I support them and help them get better if they need it.

8. Have you ever excluded a child?

I have never permanently excluded a child, it would be the very last resort. When things are going wrong for a child we need to work together to get things right in school.

9. How have you found Lockdown?

I have a good team of people in school, teachers and support staff. We have all looked out for each other. I've received flowers, cards and chocolates.

We like to keep in touch with children on zoom and phone calls.

We think Lockdown is more difficult this time as it is cold and dark so we cannot go outside much, I'm surprised we've not got rickets!

10. Will anything change after Lockdown?

Million dollar question, possibly may not do silly SAT exams. Maybe more meetings and training on ZOOM. But curriculum and school should be the same, I don't want it to change.

11. Do you like your job?

It's the best job in the whole world- I don't feel like I'm going to work- I love it.



Mrs Galloway being interviewed over Zoom by McKenzie

12. When can you retire from teaching?

Anyone can retire from age 55 up to 67, can you imagine being a teacher in reception at 67?

13. What is the worst thing to happen to you as a teacher?

I worked at a school that burnt down- it was really awful, very sad and caused a lot of upset for children and families. It took 3 years to rebuild the school. That's the worst thing that has happened to me in my teaching life.

14. Will you miss Year 6?

I will really miss Year 6 group; I feel like it is so unfair as you've really missed out but hopefully we can make up for it in the summer term!

15. Can I come back and visit?

Yes of course, please come back and visit whenever you like.

16. What makes a good Head Teacher?

To be a good Head Teacher, you need to be very clever, have a great personality, be witty, have lots of friends.... Seriously, you have to like children and want to do your best for the children. You need to treat everyone the same and try to give everyone what they need so they can learn at their best.

17. What do you like doing outside school?

I don't have much spare time. Pre Covid I liked going to the theatre, concerts, meals, meeting with friends. Hopefully we can do that again soon.

18. What is your daily routine?

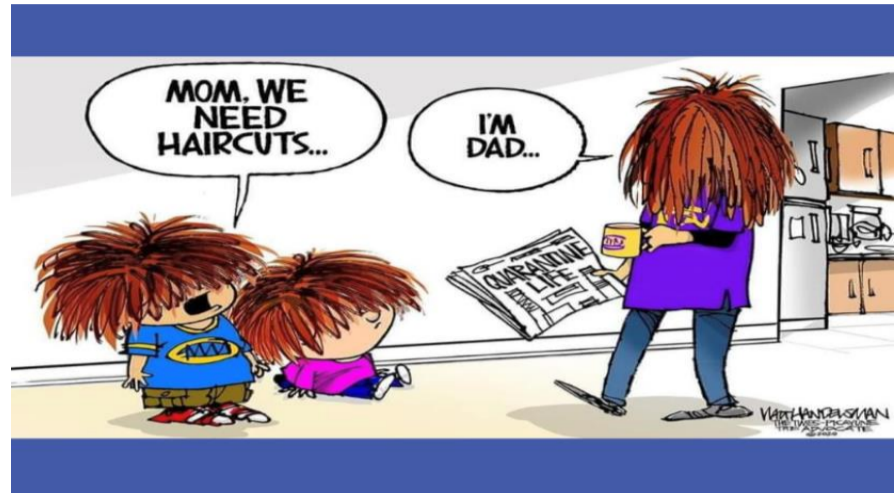
I get up at 6am and go to bed about 9pm. I am in school by 7.30am and get home at 7pm- I'm looking forward to having a rest at half term!

FINAL WORDS

What A Year!!

MRS TIRIBOCCHI

All the teachers and staff at school are so excited that we are all going to be back together again. We really have all been through a really difficult 12 months, but we've done it! This has shown us that we are resilient, hopeful and brave. We have made history; in years to come you will be telling your children about the craziest year ever. The year of rainbows, clapping on the doorstep, zoom quizzes, online lessons, empty streets, masks, hand gel, tik tok dances, Joe Wicks, baking, staying at home, late nights, lots of TV and gaming, not seeing friends or family and ...ridiculously long hair!!



PRIME MINISTER THANKS US ALL



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

30 January 2021

Open letter to parents, carers and guardians of children

While the past 12 months have been tough for all of us, the demands of this pandemic have also brought out the very best in a great many people.

And I'm particularly in awe of the way the parents, carers and guardians of children have risen to the unique challenges with which you have been faced.

Whether you've been welcoming a baby into the world without all the usual support networks, finding new ways to entertain a restive five-year-old when the soft play centre is shut and playdates are but a distant memory, or steering a teenager through the emotional stresses and strains of these unprecedented times, you have been dealt the trickiest of hands yet played it magnificently.

It's especially true of the way millions of you have coped with the pressures of home schooling while also doing your day jobs - and of course meeting all the other demands that small people generate from breakfast until bedtime. Yesterday I had the pleasure of joining a virtual classroom session with a year 6 class and while their teacher was doing a fantastic job it was also obvious just how much effort the mums and dads at home were putting in too.

We're doing everything we can to support you. 876,000 laptops have been sent to schools to make sure all kids can access online teaching. We've already committed to getting free school meals out to everyone who needs them for as long as children are at home. And when all this is over we're going to be putting hundreds of millions of pounds into nationwide catch-up programmes so that nobody gets left behind.

In the meantime, I want you to know that you are doing a great job. You're doing great for your own kids, and you're doing great for the whole country too. Because by staying at home you are playing a vital role in getting this awful virus back under control. You are buying time for our army of vaccinators to protect the vulnerable. You are paving the way back to normality and you are, quite literally, saving lives. And for that I cannot thank you enough.

...AND ESPECIALLY TO YOU CHILDREN

The Prime Minister has said . "...your generation had to grow up a bit faster during this pandemic, your generation are going to be so so vital to that national effort to rebuild because we're going to need bright, brilliant young people like you.

And that strength of character, the qualities that you forged during the lockdown – empathy, resilience, self-discipline, patience – those are qualities we're going to need now as we make our society fairer, make our air cleaner, stop our planet getting warmer.

I know this year hasn't been easy and I know you'll never get back the past few months or enjoy experiences that you hoped you would but I promise you, it has been worth it and I can't wait to see the great new world that you're going to help us to build"

Mrs Galloway saw this written by a school pupil and thought that this is so true:

“We’re not the ‘Lost Generation’ we’re the ‘creative generation!’ We have discovered more imaginative ideas to cope with remote learning. No other generation has had to deal with this pandemic. We have learnt in ways we never thought we would.”