



St. John Vianney School

Steps to Independence & Education for Life

Weekly News

05/02/2021



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Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you are keeping well?



As we rapidly approach the half term break it is becoming clearer that the first two weeks after the break will still see the country under national lockdown measures. We will certainly know more after the Prime Minister addresses the nation in late February. We do know however, that the situation we have in school is unlikely to change, with pupils whose parents wish them to stay at home, will be able to do, so until March 8th. I would like to remind every parent and carer that the place for the child at school is available and if you would like to send your child back to school, to take their place, prior to March 8th we would be happy to welcome them back. I know that this challenge presents difficulties

for lots of families and if you would like to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team at school please do call us for some advice.

This week in school we have been taking part in two national initiatives and the children have been fully engaged in both. This week is national storytelling week and as part of our literacy programme staff have been celebrating the skill and art of storytelling with our children. Storytelling really allows children to use fully their imagination, explore their creativity and develop confidence in their oral skills. Children have particularly enjoyed listening to stories from the childhood classics. Please ask them this weekend to retell the stories they have heard in school.

Secondly, this is also national children's mental health week and on Friday the school emerged itself in our 'Express Yourself' day. Children were able to come to school wearing clothes, which allowed them to show their individuality and in the afternoon they took part in some class-based emotional well-being activities, which I know will help them build greater resilience and character. It was fantastic to see the children engaged so well in both activities. Thank you also to the staff who prepared these learning experiences.

Work packs for those children who remain at home will be again sent out this week and these will be the final packs before the half term break, next week. Can I remind you that the school closes at pupils for the half term break on Thursday 11th February at 3:15 pm, opening again on Monday 22nd February at 9 am.

I do hope you have a restful and peaceful weekend.

Best wishes

Mr A Moloney

STOP PRESS

Some potentially amazing and exciting news *'hot off the press'*. St John Vianney is today on a list of 50 Schools nationwide, who have been selected by the Government, to receive significant Building Redevelopment funding. The Government have set aside funding for these schools to have their buildings upgraded and where needed rebuilt, over the next 2 years. We are now awaiting further information from the 'Department for Education' and will keep you posted of the finer details, as we receive them!

Our Catholic School

This week within SJV we are focussing on God's message through an important reminder from Pope Francis on the importance of the roles we undertake daily; as parents/carers, teachers or students. We all help educate and support one another in life.

'Let us thank those who teach in Catholic Schools. Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life'.

This week, let us reflect on the love we share in our school and the importance this plays to everyone in the school community. Its love that's makes it such a special place to be part of and we all have a huge role to play in creating this loving and supportive atmosphere.

Within our Catholic school and within RE this week, we have been focusing on Children's Mental Health Week. The theme of Children's Mental Health Week this year is 'Express Yourself'. The aim is to encourage our children to express themselves in a variety of ways. For example, at SJV expressing yourself has been about sharing our feelings, thoughts and ideas through creativity.

The Chaplaincy team within their different bubbles have been focussing on how they could raise the most money for charity by doing the SJV £5 challenge. Each form group is give £5 to buy materials or prizes to try and make as much money for our charities as possible. Which bubble is going to raise the most money? I will update you at the end of Lent.



Although the wonderful Father Des is not back at SJV in person till after half term, he returned virtualy this week to do our staff Mass on Wednesday. The staff had their intentions heard and it was a huge boost to staff and their well-being.

It has been another fun and action packed week at SJV. **Mrs Garfin**



Literacy

This week is National Story Telling Week, an opportunity to share favourite stories with each other. You don't need a book to tell a story, just your imagination or a memory! I used to love listening to my nan telling me stories about her childhood 'over the bridge' as she used to say. It was a great way of connecting with her and imagining how her life was back then. Family story sharing time is really important and is how we make connections with each other helping us to learn about the world around us, especially regarding human nature and behaviour. Stories help us to problem solve or make sense of situations we might not normally encounter. In school we've had a whole week of story sharing from traditional tales, gruesome fairy tale retellings (who knew Little Red Riding Hood could be so evil) and sharing memories about the past. It's been a great week of story sharing fun! Best wishes **Miss Nesbitt**



A Day in the life of... Thomas

What I've been doing this week: I have been doing a lot of good stuff this week. I love reading and my favourite books are Horrid Henry. We also went to forest school at the adventure farm. I loved toasting marshmallows.

What is the best thing about being in SJV? The best thing is the teachers. They help me to become cleverer and be happy.

It would be even better if... We had a forest school at our school. That would be cool.

Hopes and dreams for the future: I would like to be an author when I grow up.

How I feel about the new lockdown:

I'm ok about it. I like to relax at home and make chocolate cakes.



It is a key word sign-supported communication system based on British Sign Language. All staff use Signalong and this week we are learning how to sign **"Cow"**

Cow



Full "O" hands, palms forward, pointing up towards temples, sweep out and up like horns.



Class 5

Lots of love for lonely goat Mary at Cronkshaw farm and we enjoyed collecting the eggs too!

Miss Mollard



Stars of the Week



Just some of our Stars of the Week last week. Well done everyone!

Mindful Minute

8 WAYS TO HELP CHILDREN STRUGGLING DURING LOCKDOWN

1 **Know how to spot the signs**

If you notice your child is becoming withdrawn, that there's been a change in sleeping or eating habits, if they seem to lack confidence or get upset, it might be a sign they're struggling.

2 **Talk to your child**

If you spot signs your child might be struggling, it's important to talk to them. Keep talking and trying to communicate in any way you can – hugging, listening to them, texting them.

3 **Create structure and routine**

Try introducing a rota or loose timetable that includes fun things you're doing during the week. This can help to create a feeling of stability, which can alleviate anxiety.

4 **Give children a sense of control through information**

Look online with your children to find useful information and resources that help children feel they have control.

5 **Keep children learning**

Using fun and creative ways at home to learn alongside continued access to educational opportunities will support your children's development.

6 **Limit screen time and mix up activities**

As most socialising moves online, it's important to have conversations on how an increase in screen time can have an impact on everyone's mental health and self-esteem.

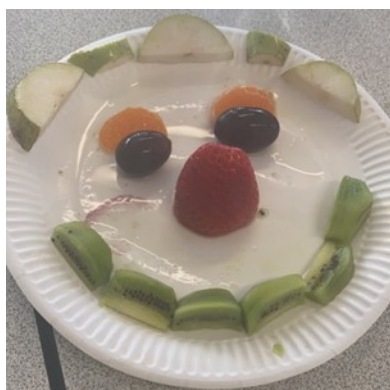
7 **Help your child manage stress**

If you spot signs your child might be struggling, it's important to talk to them. Keep talking and trying to communicate in any way you can – hugging, listening to them, texting them, etc.

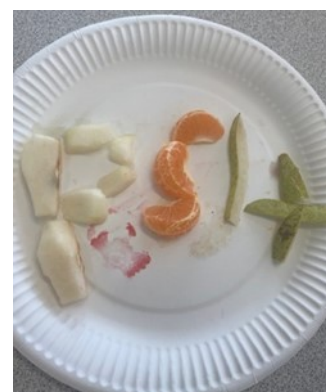
8 **Expressing feelings doesn't have to be face-to-face**

Children might find it easier writing their thoughts down, so the whole family could do this and put them in a 'Feelings box' and then talk about their good, sad or difficult feelings at the end of the day.

Class 8—City in the Community



This week Class 8 enjoyed creating pictures with fruit in CITC. As it is EWB week, we looked at different emotions and things that can help us feel positive, including eating healthy foods. **Miss Donbavand**



Safer Internet Day 2021

Tuesday 9th February

'An Internet We Trust'

Greater Manchester Police have evidence that incidents of cyberbullying have increased across Greater Manchester during lockdown, as many young people are using digital platforms, not just for their own personal use but for learning too.

It is important that children are aware of the importance of being safe and kind to others online. If children are not risk aware and supported in being safe online, there is a danger that they could become a victim of crime, commit criminal offences or get themselves involved in criminal behaviour without knowing.

Whole school quiz

On Tuesday our pupils will be joining in with the Safer Internet Day quiz. The quiz will cover a range of scenarios children may have to deal with online!

To help support keeping your child safe online, Saferinternet.org.uk have produced some free online resources

Click on the link below:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/i-am-parent-or-carer>

Post 16

Post 16 worked really hard this week at 'The Bread and Butter Thing' charity. They packed over 60 bags and made a huge contribution. Mr Kanakides

