St. John Vianney School

Steps to Independence & Education for Life

Weekly News

12/02/2021

Diocese of Salford

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Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Unfortunately, I have no further information to provide you with, following the announcement last week that St John Vianney is on a government approved 'schools' building improvement' list. We are waiting for confirmation from the DfE about the nature of the rebuild/refurbishment that will be undertaken at the school and was hoping that this would have happened by now. I look forward to providing you with more information in due course. It is certainly potentially very exciting news for the school community.

I had the opportunity yesterday to attend with class 2 the Children's Adventure Farm Trust in Altrincham. For the past six weeks the children have been engaged in Forest School activities each Thursday and it was amazing to see the group so engaged and willing to take up the opportunity that was provided for them by the CAFT team. The experiences that were offered really suited the needs of our children and they were clearly very happy, despite the freezing weather, to participate so cooperatively in play and teambuilding activities as a group. It was certainly a highlight of my week. Well done to the Class 2 team.

Today, Friday, is an INSET day in school and staff have been busy preparing for the second half of the spring term. A reminder to parents that we are now on our half term break and school opens again on Monday 22nd February at 9am. An additional reminder that any child who has not been attending during the most recent national lockdown please remember that your child's place at St John Vianney is open to them, at any point, should you wish to send them back to school. We are hoping to see most children back in school full time during the next few weeks.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful and restful half term break with your families. We look forward to seeing all our parents and carers back in school at some point in the near future.

Best wishes

Mr A Moloney

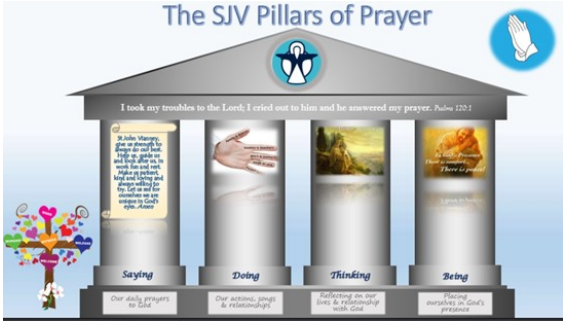
Children's Mental Health Week

Last Friday, the Staff and pupils at St John Vianney took part in **"Dress to Express"** to raise funds for the charity **Place2be**.
Thank you to all who made donations.

The children had a fantastic time dressing in their choice of clothing and taking part in all the fun activities on offer in the afternoon.
We had lots of happy faces!

Check out this amazing video displaying some of the events from the day.
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQXrRvfa8cFy1Ntsa_Bc3cA

Our Catholic School



Our focus this week in SJV is God's message from Pope Francis on the importance of prayer in our daily lives '**Dear parents, teach your children to pray. Please pray with your family as prayer strengthens family life'**:

Life is demanding, at the moment it is difficult to find hope in the current situation. However, prayer is good for us and it gives us great strength, bringing us nearer to God and each other. Prayer gives you hope, we can and will get through this situation.

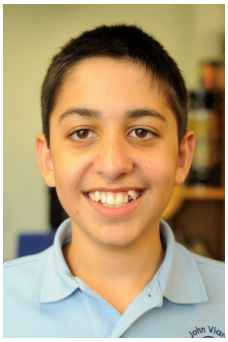
Within our Catholic school, we continue to celebrate Staff Mass remotely as a school community and reflect with each other once a week.

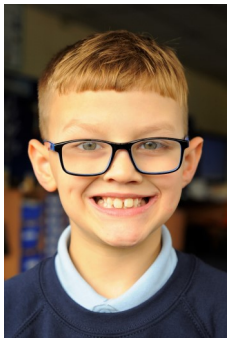
Our chaplaincy teams met this week within their bubbles to plan and lead some prayer and reflection during Lent. (Which hopefully you will see on Twitter; watch this space!)

In RE this week we looked at the importance of prayer and making time to be with God. We look at the SJV 'pillars of prayers' and how we can pray to God in traditional ways (like saying the school prayers, by mindfulness, quiet reflection and meditation).

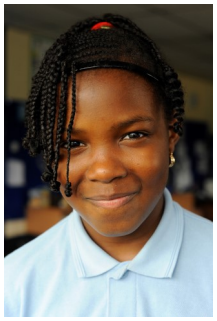
We also looked at other traditions and cultures, we looked at how people celebrate Chinese New year with classes creating some traditional Chinese dances. We re-searched and practiced some traditional moves, you can see some examples on Twitter– check it out. ***Mrs Garfin.***

Stars of the Week





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

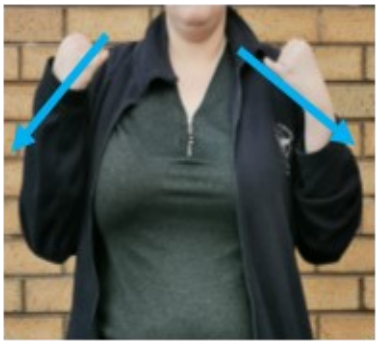


Staycation

Holidaying at home this half-term? Manchester Museum's got you covered.
Check out their family fun online creative see, make and do activities.
Click on the link below: https://www.mmfromhome.com/staycation

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 **"Sheep"**

Sheep



Use little fingers with palms back and pointing up, put them close to cheeks, circle forwards twice finishing with a slight outward movement.

Thank You

All the staff here at SJV would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to one of our transport drivers Martin. Martin kindly donated lots of stationary to the school last week for us to use in class with our students. We appreciate it, we really do!!

Class 12

In enrichment Class 12 have been doing a mini project on the past, present and future of Manchester. They have designed a picture or model of what they imagine the future to look like. It has been amazing seeing them use their imagination.

Mrs Shawcross

POST 16

Post 16 went for an amazing, but chilly walk around Salford Quays this week. Great effort by all. ***Mr Kanakides***

STRUCTURE & ROUTINE

When things are uncertain, this leads to anxiety. Young people with Speech, Language & Communication in particular require a more concrete and predictable world to feel secure. You can decrease the uncertainty and increase the feeling of security by creating structure and routine for them.

BUILD STRUCTURE INTO DAILY ROUTINE

You want your daily routine to be as structured and predictable as possible. This reduces anxiety. Regular routines that are already in place such as bed times should be continued.

USE A VISUAL SCHEDULE

Try to use visual schedules so they can see what's coming up next. These plot a route through the day for them, creating predictability.

KEEP ROUTINE HABITS THE SAME

Keep your familiar routines consistent between days For example, going for a walk at the same time each day, or following the same route on the walk.

MANAGE TRANSITIONS

Switching from one activity to the next can be challenging. Make it easier by giving reminders that things are coming to an end and others are beginning. You can use a Now/Next board, or a timer to help prepare for the change.

Anxiety presents itself in many different ways...

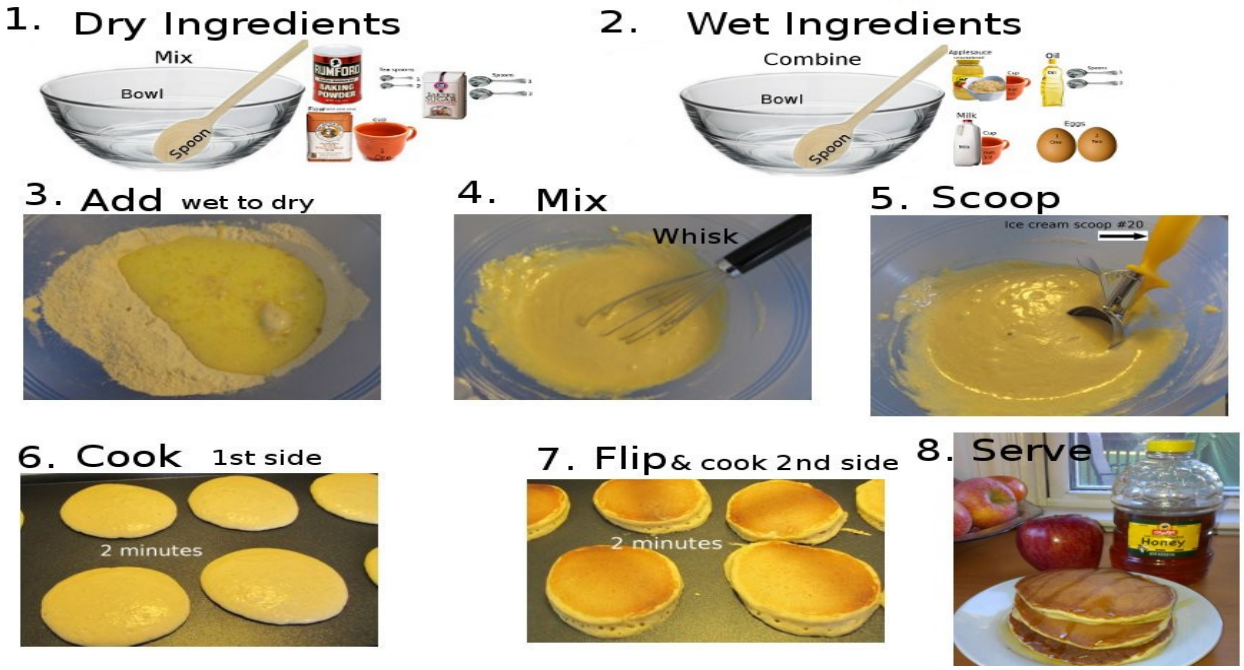
- The desire to control people and events
- Difficulty getting to sleep
- Feeling agitated or angry
- Defiance and other challenging behaviors
- Having high expectations for self, including school work & sports
- Avoiding activities or events (including school)
- Pain like stomachaches and headaches
- Struggling to pay attention and focus
- Intolerance of uncertainty
- Crying and difficulty managing emotions
- Over-planning for situations and events
- Feeling worried about situations or events

Literacy

It's going to be a strange half-term with lots of time spent indoors at home. There are some great literacy activities that you can share with your child during the week.

- Remember switching on the subtitles for any films or programmes you watch really helps in language and reading development and having a review afterwards helps children to develop an understanding of what the films are about.
- Following a recipe and talking through the process of making something together and of course on Tuesday we have Pancake Day, which is a great way to foster language. Last, but not least, have a good sing together whilst listening to lots of great music!

Singing uses so many different parts of the brain and is great for language development and for general well-being.



Have a great half-term. ***Miss Nesbitt***

Call Refuge's National Domestic Abuse Helpline for free and confidential advice, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247. Visit the helpline website to access further information, a contact form and the live chat service. If you are in immediate danger, call 999 and ask for the police.