



ST. STEPHEN'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

We Model What We Value

School News

December 2023



As term two draws to a close, we have been thinking about some of the brilliant things that the children have shared and experienced. There have been school trips and local visits for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, as well as Victorian and Stone Age experience days here in school, and a whole week dedicated to the important messages around anti-bullying.

Over the past couple of weeks with things becoming more festive, the children have been able to enjoy a whole school Christmas dinner and the fun of the Christmas Fayre. This week we also look forward to being dazzled by our lower school pupils in their Christmas production as well as experiencing the Marlowe pantomime which pupils and staff are very excited about! Throughout what has been a busy and varied term, our children have con-

tinued to work hard, encourage others around them and bring a sense of belonging to our classrooms and corridors. We are extremely proud of their hard work, behaviour and love of learning. Next term, we have plenty of things to look forward to. We will be celebrating positive noticing day (an opportunity for staff, pupils and parents to celebrate the positive things that they notice in others) Holi day and The Chinese New Year.

Ahead of all of these things, we would like to take the opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas. We hope that you all have a wonderful break with friends and loved ones and send you all the best for a bright and brilliant 2024!

Laura Cutts and Sarah Heaney, Headteachers

Lunchtimes!

We are currently trialling a new system of lunchtimes which means that every day the children will eat lunch at the same time in their year groups. This is more consistent with adult support and is more beneficial for the children to have a consistent routine.

We have also amended the break time to be a whole school break, where children can mix across the school. Areas such as the trim trail and the library are open at break time, offering a wider variety of activities and more space.

Lunch is now an hour from 11.45 -12.45 for the whole school with all staff supporting in the supervision and logistics. Initial feedback has been very positive from children and staff. Next term we will be working on developing creative activities and games with the School Council for the children to enjoy to continue to make the playground a fun and exciting space. **We are looking for donations of old tyres and plastic piping, please let us know if you can help us with this!**

Introducing Gina Donaldson, one of our Trustees, who was very well interviewed by two pupils from Ocelot Class.



Why did you want to be a Trustee?

I was a Trustee at Blean School for a long time, but I wanted to support my local school which is St Stephen's.

Why do you think this school is unique compared to others?

The grounds are really fantastic, there are two really good Headteachers and the focus of the school is to ensure that the school community has a sense of belonging.

Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I have always been interested in education, I was a primary school teacher and my favourite subject is maths. I now teach people to be teachers.

How would you sum up the school?

Really friendly, ambitious and creative!

What do you think we could do to improve the school?

More of a focus on maths, which is happening, if the government would increase funding to the school which would mean more opportunities for pupils. Increasing lunch activities as well as talks from visitors based around the curriculum would also be good.

Does the school have good ambitions for the future?

Absolutely, it really focuses on pushing students with their learning to achieve as well as supporting them learn about relating and caring for others.

Why do you feel so passionate about this school?

A positive primary education can transform a child's future.

educate.against. ~~hate~~



As a school we want to make sure that we deal with all forms of racism, bullying and othering that pupils are experiencing. It is our highest priority and we want to be clear that we do not tolerate any language or actions that incite hate towards others. Belonging is at the heart of our school values and we want to work towards this for every child and family in our school.

As a staff team we have undertaken Prevent training this year, run by the Local Safeguarding team to ensure that we are well informed and able to support all our pupils through education, mediation and restoration. Within our PSHE curriculum, racism is covered in each year group, more frequently as children reach upper school. This document identifies where it links to the statutory RSE curriculum. <https://jigsawpshe.com/hubfs/Bookshelf/Jigsaw-3-11-Preventing-Racism.pdf>. We recognise that this is only a start in educating pupils and need to continue to ensure that we embed as much teaching and education around harmful attitudes for all of our children. This term we have celebrated Anti Bullying week, with the theme 'Odd socks' as well as Black History month with every class reading and discussing texts by black authors.

Next term we want to include more whole class teaching using a variety of resources to continue to embed our value of belonging and ensure that racism has no place in our school. We will share these resources and information with parents at the time. Please do contact us if you are concerned that your child has been a victim of racism within our school.

School Community Lunch!




We were very lucky to host the Mayor and Mayoress of Canterbury, along with other residents in the community for their Christmas dinner. Our School Council served the dinners whilst Mrs Mann and the school choir provided some festive singing!



Useful information – local support



KENT EDUCATIONAL
PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE



PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION LINE



Free 30 minute phone/video consultation with an
Educational Psychologist for parents and carers.

The aim of this service is to provide advice and guidance to
parents and carers to support children's wellbeing and learning.
If you would like to make use of this service please click on the
link: <https://forms.office.com/e/K7PT6ajkuQ>
or scan the QR code:



<https://canterburyfoodbank.org/>

Please do get in contact with Canterbury Foodbank who will be able to support if you need food for your family.. **They are closed from Dec 22nd – 2nd January but do have emergency provision.**



Online Parent Workshops

Aimed at parents of children in primary school

Introduction To Understanding Autism

Wednesday 13th December 10am-12pm

*Workshop timings change from term to term

Do you have **questions about autism?** Maybe your child has **received a diagnosis**. Would you like to come and **meet with other parents and carers** and learn about ways to **support your child?**

You are invited to a **workshop about understanding symptoms of autism**. We also discuss **helpful strategies that you can use at home** to help support your child.




If you would like to join, please **ctrl + click the link below or by entering the Meeting ID and Passcode within Teams**:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)


Meeting ID: 375 542 771 274 Passcode: PkMoDV

Our workshops are held on Microsoft Teams. You can create an account for free. You will need access to the internet. If you have any questions please speak to your child's school. Currently, this workshop is only available to parents/carers of children attending an EWT/EST school. Please speak to your child's school or check our website for our list of schools.

We look forward to meeting you.



You're never too young to talk mental health



Tips for talking for parents and carers

There are lots of resources and information on supporting mental health with children available. Anna Freud is a good place to start!

<https://d1uw1dikibnh8j.cloudfront.net/media/11396/tmh-parent-leaflet-final-web-updated-by-ed-april-2020.pdf>

Join Phil, our Education & Community Officer, for a festive-themed FREE, fun family workshop to learn all about safe behaviour around dogs and being responsible around our four-pawed friends!

Tuesday 19th December
1.30pm - 3:00pm
Dogs Trust Canterbury
Radfall Road
Chestfield (Near Whitstable)
Kent



Year 3

Year 3 did their own cave art during Stone Age day. They worked as a team to create a wonderful finished piece. Super team work Year 3!



Year 4

We have researched the different pharaohs, learned about the mummification process and explored the similarities between Ancient Egypt and other civilisations.

Friday 17th November 2023.
 L.O: what did ancient Egypt have in common with other civilisations.

FLASHBACK:

- 1) True or false? The Egyptians believed the brain was important. false ✓
- 2) Name a job that would have existed in Egyptian times. slavery ✓
- 3) Did the Romans have baths? yes ✓
- 4) Describe a primary source of evidence. painting ✓

Similarities of ancient Egypt and other civilisations:

- hunting, washing, playing, delicting.
- so they had similar lighting like hieroglyphics.
- so the roads would be to sewage and plumbing.
- so there good in similar and they both like gaming like what.
- so they had similar buildings and different shaped pyramids.

Clue: so they had

Tuesday 7th November 2023
 L.O: Mummification.

FLASHBACK:

- 1) True or false? The Egyptians had no time to play games. false ✓
- 2) Name a board game played in Egyptian times. senet ✓
- 3) Was it a good or bad thing if the River Nile flooded? good ✓
- 4) Name a Roman town. London ✓

1. First, they would clean the body. And then they would get a hole and stick up the nose and give it a little wiggle and viola, you have complete your first brain removal!
2. Next, they would remove all the organs except the heart-heart. They removed the organ so they didn't decay. They didn't remove the heart because they believed they needed it in their after life. They put the organs in ceramic jars.
3. Before putting the lined strips on the person, they put salt on it called natron to stop it from rotting away. They sometimes put spices on to prevent from it smelling.
4. In this process, they would wrap the person in lined strips and in between each layer they would put amulets in. And they also mummified and wrapped up their pots.



This term, Turtle class have been learning about sculptures in Art. We have used different clay techniques to create Canopic jar lids, which the Ancient Egyptians used to store their organs in after death!

Year 5

Leah created this space picture using watercolours, and white paint for the stars.



Tuesday 28th November 2023

10: Narrative retelling: 'The clockwork crew'

One dark rainy evening, I was waiting at the docks of Devon, the waves rippling as a cool breeze blew in, whoosh, whoosh, whoosh. It was a very chilly evening but the dark shimmering clouds still showed the mysterious moon that was shining on over me.

It was a very cold and windy but the grey, dark clouds that showed loomed over the white moon as the wind sang a mysterious song. "Who, who." It sang. I had to tighten my jacket as a man who was wearing very dark clothes.

"Good evening, miss," the man said

"Good evening to you sir," I replied

The man shivering in the cold. The man's clothes were black grey and navy blue. He also had a hat which really mostly covered his face but I knew I could see him.

"Are you on your own now miss?" he asked. I was quite annoyed by this question so I replied, "Yes, do you see anyone else by my side?"

"I-I know the way." "Oh, am n-n-no miss." He replied. "Uhh, I have to go-go to. Please, keep this chat note." he passed.

"Can I trust you?" The man said

"Yes," he said

"Well, Bye Bye Bye!" he said.

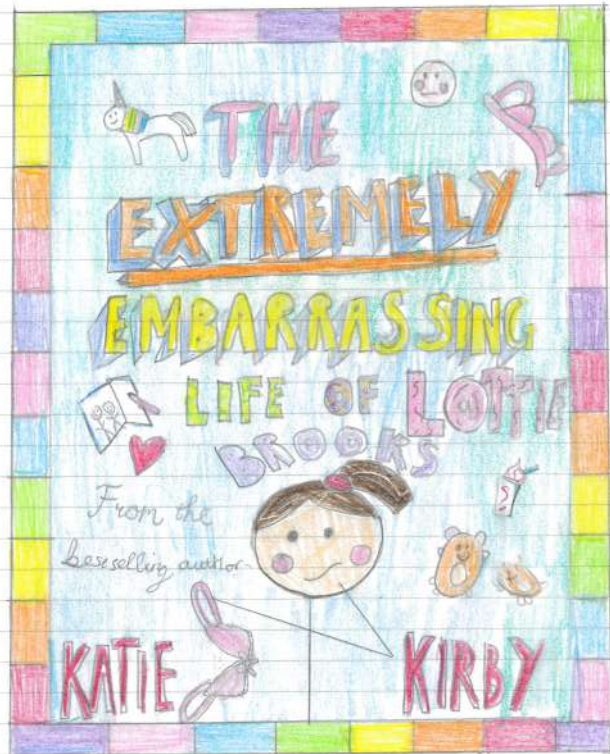
"Bye?" I replied but he was gone already.

Just as I turned back I heard a ship's honk, "HONK!! HONK!!! HONK!!!!!!" I ran to the boarding area clutching the tiny chest. As I sat down I watched the ship departing from the docks.

I decided that I wanted to open the chest, so as I opened the lock, I saw a bright glow...

Yashini a fantastic story with great use of dialogue and onomatopoeia

Year 6



Friday 8th December 2023

LO: Independent write

The Extremely Embarrassing Life of Lottie Brooks

The Extremely Embarrassing Life of Lottie Brooks is an action-packed novel written by the most amazing Katie Kirby. This book will explore some surprising and very embarrassing events such as: getting her first ever bra and erging out a hair curling wand which doesn't go as planned. This absolutely amazing book is very fun and will make you laugh out loud!

11 $\frac{1}{4}$ year old Lottie Brooks - with her big fat chunkys - is very sad when her best friend ever moves to Australia. What will she do now? Her younger brother, Toby, is annoying Lottie even more when she leaves but then Lottie's mum gets pregnant. What might happen next? This book is also about crushes. However if you do buy the book it is a very secret diary.

My second favourite character is Lottie. She is a naughty girl like me at home like me when my sisters around! However my favourite character is Jess who absolutely adores football. She can even do over 100 Peepie ups. She is kind and warm-hearted and will help Lottie whenever she needs it.

"Best book ever! Stayed up all night trying to finish and I will make sure I buy the second one in the series."

J.K. Rowling.

"I couldn't put it down!"

The Telegraph.

★★★★★ 5 stars

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? JUST BUY THE BOOK ALREADY! CHOP! CHOP!



An excellent self portrait by Oliver.



A brilliant drawing of Taylor Swift.