



St George's C of E Primary School

Learning for Life



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13th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring term at St George's! I hope you all enjoyed a peaceful and happy Christmas and that you were able to take time to recharge and spend time with loved ones.

We have had a great start to the new term; the children have settled back into school very well and are enjoying getting stuck in to their learning. This is a short term with a lot to fit in!

At the end of this newsletter you will find the latest edition of Nicky Nightingale's Forest School Newsletter, celebrating all the wonderful work that took place last term.

Colchester Zoo Rocks



As mentioned last term, Oliver in Pathfinders was the winner of our Colchester Zoo Rocks competition. He worked hard to transfer his design to the large rock which will form part of our school display at Colchester Zoo.

Well done Oliver and thank you for creating a design which represents St George's and the variety of wildlife in our World.

All the rocks will now be varnished before being returned to the Zoo where they will be included in the rock garden installation to celebrate the 60th

birthday of Colchester Zoo.

Staffing Update

Welcome to Miss Harris who has joined our Support Staff team this term. Miss Harris will be working with children across the school, supporting in the classroom and working with individuals and small groups. She also works as a Midday Assistant, supporting the children in the lunch hall and in the playground.

I'm sure you will join me in welcoming Miss Harris to the St George's team.

Have a lovely weekend.



Mrs Keitch

Navigators News

11th January 2023
WA LT: write in the past perfect tense

a b

X X

past perfect: 2 events | had | past participle verb
present - past - (had+) past participle

eat	- ate	- (had) - eaten
play	- played	- (had) - played
live	- lived	- (had) - lived
drive	- drove	- (had) - driven

1 The Endurance had ploughed through many miles of pack ice when at last she became stuck. a b

2 The Endurance's crew had taken a lot of damage when Shackleton ordered his crew to abandon ship. a b

3 The crew had just built Ocean Camp when the southern aurora shone beautifully above. a b

4 On Elephant Island, the crew turned their boats into shelters since giant waves had recently washed their camp into the ocean. a b

In this week's English lessons, the Navigators children have been continuing their work on the beautiful book 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill. In this unit of work, they have had lots of opportunities for writing, including letters in role as crew members of the Endurance and timelines of the expedition.

In the image above, we have completed some grammar work linked to the book.

WA LT: Orderland decimals as fractions

1.0122

> 0.5	> 0.25	> 0.75	> 0.3
> 0.35	> 0.9	> 0.59	> 0.999
> 0.1	> 0.01	> 0.05	> 0.79
> 0.64	> 0.32	> 0.54	> 0.865

0.64

0.25

0.01

0.05

0.79

0.265

0.54

0.75

0.999

1

0.179

0.99

0.9

1. $\frac{5}{100} = \frac{1}{20} = 0.05$

$\frac{905}{100}$

1. write 10/100 under the decimal
2. remove the decimal point
3. simplify if (is your own)

In Maths, we have been learning about the links between decimals and fractions, finding out how to express decimals in fraction form and simplifying fractions.

We have used this knowledge and understanding to order a mixed set of decimals and fractions.

My song Band name: The Trouble Sisters.

WWI

Context
Daughters sing to mother
They sing to the Mother saying the Father is going to be alright
They are saying goodbye near the train.
The Children are hoping the father will be alright during the war.

Mood
Hopeful, Graceful & warm.
Because we hope that our Father will not die in the war
We hope that he will come back and we will see him again.

Tempo
Very Slow Because it's sad moments and also very unpredictable. When the train goes the Tempo is going to get faster.

Lyrics/Melody

Amelia - Mummy Mummy is daddy going to be alright?
Sofia - Yes darling if we're hopeful then he will be ok!
Sienna - Mum I heard the train has arrived in Australia.

Our Dimensions topic is 'Wars of the World'. As well as learning lots of interesting information about WWI and WWII, we have also been finding out about the important role music played during wartime, lifting people's spirits and raising morale.

Dates for your Diary

You may wish to make a note of the dates below.

Further information will be sent out to you in due course.

Thursday 19th January	Navigators Trip to Duxford
Monday 6th February	Reception and Y6 Height and Weight checks (Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service)
Friday 19th February	PTA Break the Rules Day - information to follow!
Monday 13 th - Friday 17 th February	Half Term break
Thursday 23 rd and Friday 24 th March	Y6 Bikeability
Friday 31 st March 2pm	Easter Service St George's Church - parents invited
Friday 31st March	Last day of term
Monday 3rd - Friday 14th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th April	Non Pupil Days
Wednesday 19th April	First day of the Summer term - children return to school

Forest School 'Nightingale' Awards

Sienna - For being creative with natural materials, building a shelter and waterproofing with tarpaulins.

Hollie - For extending your ideas, creating a harness-style swing to fly through the trees like Spiderman!

Ben - For persisting with the flint and steel to master the technique, creating excellent sparks and lighting your own mini fire.

Oliver - For amazing perseverance and not giving up, when lighting your mini fire with a flint and steel. Well done!

Explorers Class - For a fantastic start to your term of Forest Schools. You listened brilliantly at the log circle to the rules and had a busy and engaging first session - well done!

Forest Schools

Autumn Term 2022

Written by Nicky 'Nightingale' Powell, Forest Schools Leader

This term we were off to a flying start, with the children quickly getting back into the swing of their Forest Schools sessions, building on prior knowledge and skills from last year.

We have searched for Autumn treasures, such as pine cones and acorns, and created our own Autumn necklaces and Nature Sticks.



The children have been keen to do some fire lighting and preparing kindling for the group fires. They have had opportunities to spilt wood, while learning how to be safe using tools, and created sparks using a Flint and Steel. There has been lots of patience and perseverance—lighting a mini fire teaches children these important skills and the proud faces when it finally lights, are priceless!



We have cooked popcorn and enjoyed s'mores and hot chocolate.

The children in Year 3 completed a 'Protect Your Egg' challenge, where they had to build something to keep their egg safe from a fall and their fantastic efforts were tested by dropping them from height.



There has been some amazing teamwork and problem solving with children working together to create shelters and it is lovely to see them elaborating on previous ideas, tying knots and securing the tarpaulins with minimal adult support. This is certainly strengthening their independent skills and resilience.



The Woodland Trust provided us with thirty saplings which we have planted on the school field as a project towards Climate Change. The children enjoyed planting these with John Jackdaw and I, and we are looking forward to seeing them change and grow over the years to come.



Explorers Class have enjoyed their first experiences of Forest Schools, coming down to the forest area and have spent time measuring trees in order to find out how old they are, as well as hunting for soft toy animals which live in our woodlands in the UK.

With the changing seasons and temperatures dropping, the children have observed how environments change. They enjoyed the icy conditions, creating watercolour paintings on frost and ice, cleaning ice cubes to make shiny 'diamonds' and creating a cobbled-effect path to their shelters.

