

St George's C of E Primary School

Learning for Life



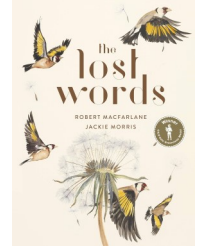
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18th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Book Week

In Tuesday's assembly we all gathered together to share and celebrate the work done during Book Week. The children were very proud to share their writing, poetry, watercolours and crafts with the whole school. See over the page for more details.



Remembrance



On Friday we held an act of remembrance in the school Hall. **Thank you** to Zachary, Ellie, Amelia and Oliver for providing the readings.

On Sunday, Rosie and Hugo took part in the Service of Remembrance at St George's church. They read beautifully and represented our school superbly. **Thank you.**

Tendring Police Giving Tree Appeal

We will be supporting the Tendring Police Giving Tree initiative again this year. See over the page for further information. Please do support this appeal if you can. Times are tough for us all and the neediest in our society require our support more than ever. Gifts should be donated, unwrapped, to the school office by Friday 9th December.



Colchester Zoo Rocks competition

All the children have decorated their own individual rock in class over the past two weeks. These will be returned to the Zoo later this term and will then be on display at the Zoo for a period of time.



We also have one large rock to be decorated and we are running a whole school competition to determine which design will be painted onto it, to be displayed with all the individual rocks at Colchester Zoo. The children have been told about this competition in today's assembly and will bring home an entry form tonight. I am also attaching a copy of the entry form to the email version of this newsletter.

Step by Step Parenting Course - Free for St George's families! (see attached flyer)

As a member of Child First Trust, we are able to offer our families FREE access to an eight week parenting course based at Queen Boudica School in Colchester. This will take place on Mondays from January. I would encourage you to consider signing up for this if you are able to; please contact our Family Support Worker, Jackie Curtis, for further details 07732 122688 Jackie@childfirsttrust.org.uk

Online Safety: The Two Johns

The Two Johns provide regular updates for parents regarding Online Safety for children. They are ex-police officers who work in schools throughout Essex and their knowledge and expertise is unrivalled. Please find over the page and attached to the email a flyer with details of their next series of parent workshops. I would strongly recommend you sign up for these workshops.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Keitch

Book Week

Explorers

Explorers have been busy this Book Week:

- ❖ Bluebell finger painting.
- ❖ Searching for the letters that make up the word 'Bramble'.
- ❖ Making bird feeders.
- ❖ Creating a giant collage of a magpie.
- ❖ Writing fact files about magpies.
- ❖ Making binoculars.
- ❖ Finding toy animals and creatures in our woodland area.
- ❖ Using acrylic paint pens to draw animals and minibeasts onto stones/pebbles/rocks as part of a project for Colchester Zoo.



Pathfinders

We have 'found' lots of lost words around our classroom and have enjoyed exploring the meaning of these words. Some were familiar to us, such as 'bluebell'; others such as 'wren' and 'raven' were not and it was great to expand our knowledge of these.

We also picked a very fun-loving animal from the book: the otter. We learnt lots about this animal and explored vocabulary to describe it. We then used this to create an acrostic poem of the word 'otter'. To finish off our week, we also completed some 'Otter' water colours inspired by the book and created a whole class collage of an otter for our display.



Adventurers

The children selected and sketched the outline of a bird, animal or plant from The Lost Words book, creating shape poetry.

The children used beautiful adjectives and the five senses to come up with their ideas. They then wrote up their final version of their poetry around their sketches, and here you can see some of the completed versions



Navigators

In Navigators, we have had some engaging class conversations about interesting and beautiful things we have seen while exploring nature. We have heard about dangerous seagulls, placid crocodiles and sharp-eyed birds of prey, among others.

Navigators Class have been working on pencil sketches of a British wild animal, and an accompanying shape poem to describe that animal. As always, the creativity and invention has been lovely to see. Our giant owl collage (inspired in part by Monday morning's owl encounter) will make a wonderful addition to the school hall.



Essex Police - Tendring Christmas Giving Tree Appeal



It's our 4th year!

We are delighted to announce that the Tendring Community Policing Team will once again be running its Tendring Community Christmas Giving Appeal again this year! We know how hard everyone is likely to find this Christmas but ask if you can help us bring a smile to a child's face Christmas day by donating a small gift.

Over the last three years we have managed to help more than 1000 young people within the Tendring District. The presents you delivered or had delivered to us were wrapped and sent to disadvantaged children around the district, so they had something to open on Christmas Day!

Unfortunately, we cannot accept second-hand presents and all donations must be unwrapped.

Please bring your gift donations to the St George's School Office by Friday 9th December at the very latest. We will deliver them to Tendring Police all together.

Thank you in advance for your support.

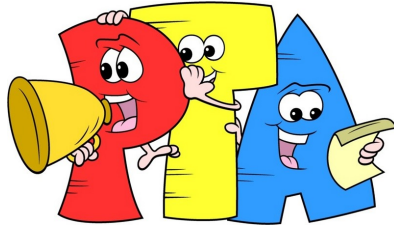
School Trips and Visits: Thank you to the PTA

At St George's we believe that trips and visits play a crucial part in the curriculum. They bring the learning to life for the children and give them hands-on experiences which they will remember. We aim to incorporate a trip or visit into each term for each class.

We have seen the cost of trips rise significantly over the past few years. This is largely linked to the cost of coach travel, although we are noticing that entrance fees for museums and attractions are now rising too. When costing out a trip, we bear in mind the value for money and always keep costs to a minimum.

This academic year, the PTA have made contributions to the following trips and experiences in a bid to keep costs down for families: Pathfinders Drama Workshop; Adventurers trip to Flatford Mill; Navigators STEM workshop and the whole school pantomime trip. We are very grateful for this support and feel it is a worthwhile use of the PTA's funds. Without it, these experiences could not go ahead.

We know that times are tough for everyone. If you have any concerns regarding payment for school trips and experiences, please contact the school office.



PTA Events App

The PTA Events mobile phone app is closing down. You will still be able to access the app via the desktop version on the link below. This can be accessed on computer or mobile phone.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stgeorgescofe/index.cfm?event=shop#.Y3aSbSWnyEc>

Christmas Market and Fundraising

- ❄ Christmas count down candles are on sale on the PTA app, customise your candle on the app
- ❄ Timed Grotto tickets are on sell on the app to see Father Christmas, book your time slot to avoid queuing.
- ❄ Don't forget to encourage your child to enter our **Christmas jumper competition**.
- ❄ We don't currently have a **match funder** for the Christmas Market, please scan the QR code on the PTA noticeboard to see if your company is involved in this and let us know.
- ❄ Please sign up to Amazon Smile if you have not already done so.
- ❄ We need more **volunteers to help at the Market**. We need to people to help set up during the day, people to man and run our stalls at the market and people to help take things down on the Saturday morning after the market. **Please contact Kate or Chris if you can help.**

£ DO YOU SHOP AT AMAZON? £

IF SO WHY NOT DONATE TO OUR SCHOOL WHILE SHOPPING, AT NO EXTRA COST.

USE THIS LINK AND SIGN UP TO AMAZON SMILE AND THEN SHOP AWAY JUST LIKE YOU DO ON AMAZON.

IF YOU SHOP VIA THE APP THEN UPDATE THE APP TO AMAZON SMILE AND SHOP THERE AS WELL.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1047072-0>



Thank You!

A massive thank you to all helpers at the disco last week, children really enjoyed themselves. We will share the fundraising total in next week's newsletter.

Thanks to parents for donations to the Christmas market so far, **this week we are asking for donations of a bottle of something from wine to fairy liquid!**

Please follow our **PTA Facebook** page for all latest news and reminders.

*Kate and Chris
Co-Chairs of the PTA*



eSafety Training

'The 2 Johns'

Essex Child & Family Wellbeing Service and 'The 2 Johns' are pleased to offer **FREE** online parent workshops that will look at the online world, how our young people are using it and how to keep them safe. This includes :

- Favourite apps and games
- Dangers they face
- How young people are being influenced online
- Solutions that parents can adopt to help keep their children safe

Sessions will run virtually from 8.00pm-9.30pm on dates below:

Tuesday 22nd Nov 2022

Thursday 24th Nov 2022

Monday 28th Nov 2022

Tuesday 6th Dec 2022

Wednesday 7th Dec 2022

Monday 12th Dec 2022

Tuesday 14th Dec 2022

Wednesday 21st Dec 2022



To book a place please call our Hub on 0300 247 0015



Sydney House Family Hub – Tendring District

Berechurch Family Hub - Colchester Borough

Services commissioned by:



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.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 23rd November | Flu Immunisations |
| Wednesday 30th November | Individual school photographs |
| Friday 2nd December | PTA Christmas Fair |
| Wednesday 7th December | KS1 (Y1 and 2) Nativity performances (afternoon and evening - details to follow) |
| Thursday 8th December | Adventurers Trip to Flatford Mill |
| Wednesday 14th December | Whole School Trip to the pantomime |
| Thursday 15th December | Reception Christmas Sing-Along |
| Friday 16th December 2pm | Carol Service at St George's Church |
| Monday 19th December | Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner |
| Tuesday 20th December | Last day of term |
| Thursday 5th January | First day of Spring term |

Forest School 'Nightingale' Awards

Anabel - For being helpful to her peers, modelling how to hold, and use the flint and steel to make sparks.

Millie B - For being confident in using the flint and steel to make sparks, sharing her own experiences and lighting the main fire for the group.

Pixie - For being patient and having a positive attitude, persevering with the flint and steel to make sparks.

Bella - For working hard, both independently and with others to create a shelter from the rain, tying knots and problem solving to find solutions to problems you encountered.

Jack - For your enthusiasm in tree planting during our session, helping to plant the saplings. You showed a lot of interest and helped us in our bid towards climate change.

Crewe - For demonstrating your understanding of why trees are important to us and showing an interest in tree planting, helping to plant saplings during our session.



Our Stars of the Week this week are:

★ Explorers

★ Parker - for working hard in Phonics and beginning to hear initial sounds

★ Zak - for your excellent effort and progress in Maths



★ Pathfinders

★ Alexander - for excellent effort in all of your writing

★ Bella - for creative engagement with our Divergent Drama Day



★ Adventurers

★ Luca - for improved concentration and working really well when practising your times tables

★ Poppie - your attitude to your learning has improved significantly. We are so impressed with your determination and focus



★ Navigators

★ Harry - for excellent positive learning and giving a fantastic tour of the Temple of Luxor

★ Jack - for tremendous growth in confidence and resilience in every lesson



★ **Lunchtime Awards go to:**

★ Explorers

★ Neive - for eating all of your lunch and sitting nicely with your friends

★ Pathfinders

★ Harriet - sitting beautifully in the lunch hall and being caring towards your friends

★ Adventurers

★ Maya - for lining up quietly and listening at lunchtime



★ Navigators

★ Barnaby - for always being sensible and making wise choices

★ **Reader of the Week Awards go to:**

★ Explorers

★ Jenson - for reading at home throughout the week



★ Pathfinders

★ Theodore - for reading confidently at home with mummy

★ Adventurers

★ Violet - for excellent reading throughout the week. Your understanding of different types of vocabulary is also strong

★ Navigators

★ Eleanor - for writing as a reader, making improvements for maximum impact.

