



HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers for your commitment and effort to home learning for the past couple of months. The juggling between your many different roles has certainly not been easy, and I thank you for all of your support.

We have been so proud of all of the work that the children have done during this lockdown and we wanted to celebrate some of their achievements. The staff have all nominated two members of their class to be recognised for their effort during their home-learning. Well done to the following pupils:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|--------------------|
| ◆ Evelyn and Ethan | - | Reception St Anne |
| ◆ Jacob and Senay | - | Year 1 St David |
| ◆ Eron and Helel | - | Year 2 St Mary |
| ◆ Elisha and Sammy | - | Year 3 St Francis |
| ◆ Summer and Emiliano | - | Year 4 St Barnabas |
| ◆ Brandon and David | - | Year 5 St Thomas |
| ◆ Precious and Marissa | - | Year 5 St John |
| ◆ Ty and Valentina | - | Year 6 St Luke |

Staff have told me how hard these pupils have worked, putting in extra effort, persevering when they have found things difficult or consistently being engaged in the lessons each day. Well done! I have included some of the examples of work that the staff have shared with me at the end of this newsletter. Do have a look at the great pieces of work.

I know that the staff found it incredibly difficult to choose just two members of their class, so please do watch out for more names in the coming weeks. I have loved looking at the work in Google Classroom – especially the videos that the children have uploaded and the photos of their work.

[A message from the School Governors](#)

We now know that school will open for all children on Monday, and we wanted to say how much we are looking forward to welcoming all St Joseph's children back from next week. The children (and all the parents!) deserve a huge well done for all the effort they have put into their learning, under such challenging circumstances. We hope the children will enjoy the chance to see their teachers and friends again in the flesh instead of on a screen!

We'd also like to offer a heartfelt thank you to the leadership and all the staff at St Joseph's for the huge effort they have put into keeping our school community together during this period of lockdown. A huge amount of hard work has gone into keeping school open for some of the children, while continuing such a high standard of teaching and care for all the children learning at home – we are so grateful to the whole team.

We hope and pray that the coming months will see the pandemic improve, and that there will be healing for everyone who has been affected, in different ways, by this terrible virus.

With our prayers for a safe and happy return to school for all –

St Joseph's Governing Body

As I have explained in the emails this week, the sanitising and cleaning routines will continue from 8th March. All children will continue to work in bubble groupings, with staggered play and lunchtimes and we will have adults allocated to specific bubble groups. There will be times when adults need to move between the bubbles, but wherever possible, this will be done with adults from the adjacent class – maintaining the bubbles at all times.

As all children will be returning to school, face-to-face lessons will commence on Monday 8th March. We will continue to use Google Classroom for homework, and lessons will also be available if your child has to self-isolate. It is important to note that pupils are not expected to do school work if they are unwell. If your child has to self-isolate, the work will be set using powerpoints from the teachers' planning and resources or links from sites such as; White Rose Maths, BBC and Oak Academy. If the class/bubble group is closed and the teacher is well enough to teach remotely, we will continue with live sessions through Google Meets and some group teaching.

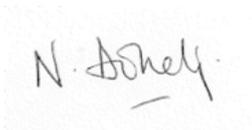
We are looking forward to seeing you all of the children back at school on Monday morning. Our teachers have planned lots of fun and exciting learning next week as all of the children, and adults, settle back in to the routine. It should be a fun week, starting off with International Women's Day and moving on through British Science Week.

Please do take great care to maintain social distancing while outside the school gates.

Thank you for your continued support.

Stay safe everyone.

Best Wishes



Miss Nicola Doherty (Headteacher)

 @StJosephsSE8

 @StJosephsDeptford



NOURISH CONTRACT CATERING WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL OF THE PUPILS BACK TO SCHOOL!

WE ARE PROVIDING A NUTRITIONALLY ANALYSED MENU WITH MANY OF YOUR FAVOURITES DISHES.

WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH YOUR SCHOOL TO ENSURE YOUR LUNCHTIME IS SAFE AND YOU HAVE TIME TO ENJOY YOUR MEAL.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL!

Asymptomatic testing

Information for parents and adults in households with children at school or college

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below. You should not give test kits to parents, carers or household members and should not order more test kits for this purpose. Secondary school and college students will continue to access testing through their school or college.

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free.

There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- - through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- - by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of

7 tests

- - by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through

other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other

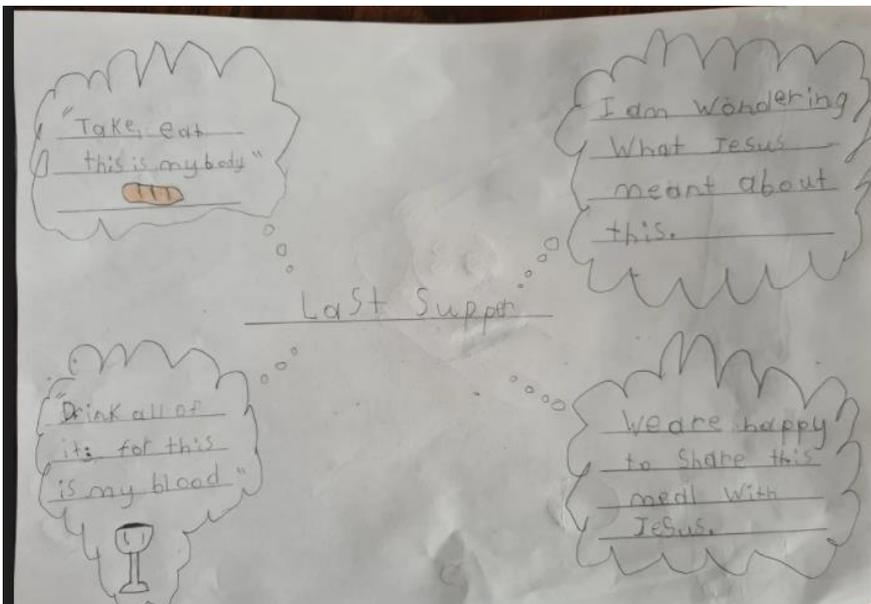
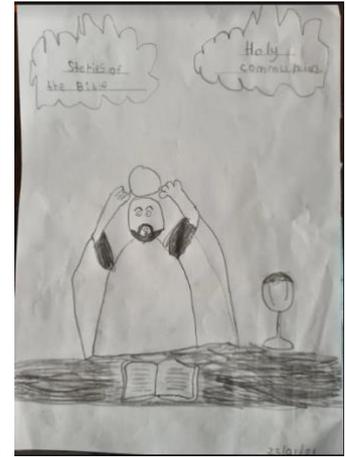
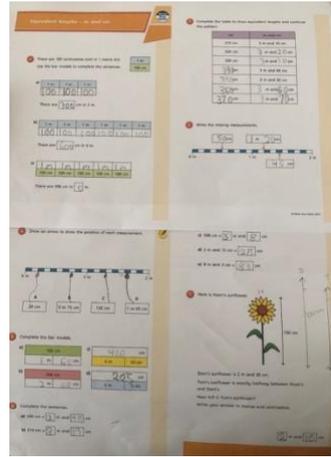
You can collect Lateral Flow Home Testing kits for the adults in your household from:
Molesworth Stree car park, Lewisham SE13 7DS or
Vanguard Street car park SE8 4DQ

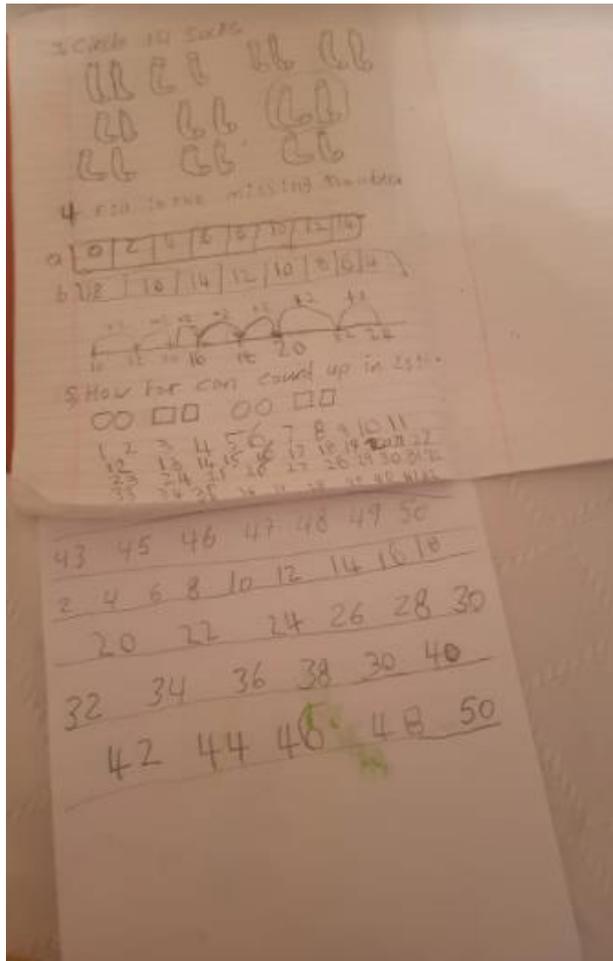


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Examples of children's Work During Lockdown:





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Lessons from the Past

Tragically, the death of George Floyd, in the USA last year, highlighted that we must remember and learn about black history. Because of this, it is important to celebrate the achievements and remember the black role models of the Space Race. At the time, their incredible work was hidden from view, but the book Hidden Figures is changing this. Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Kathrine Johnson and Christine Darden are all exceptional black role models. If we understand racism in the past, then we are better prepared to challenge it in the future.

In 1969, the Apollo 11 took off with the help of Katherine Johnson, Christine Darden, Mary Jackson and Dorothy Vaughan. During this time, Christine Darden started working as a human computer. She solved a lot of equations and analysed a lot of data. She graduated at 15, loved Geometry and got a Math degree. She was the first black women to be promoted to a senior leadership role. Mary Jackson joined NASA in 1958 and she was the first aerospace engineer at NASA. During this period, being an aerospace engineer at NASA was not easy because that the space agency was still segregated in the 1950s.

Dorothy Vaughan served as head of the West Computers until 1958, when NACA was incorporated into the newly created NASA, which closed the segregated facilities. Vaughan and many other West Computers then joined the NASA Analysis and Computation Division, a group made up of men and women of all races. Finally, in the year 1958, Katherine Johnson joined NASA. In NASA, Katherine did a lot of calculating. She calculated the trajectories of spacecraft.

It is vital that we remember the excellent women in Hidden Figures because they helped to win the Space Race against the USSR. I strongly believe that the women in Hidden Figures helped launch the first people to the rocky, grey moon. The excellent women in Hidden Figures were the first black ladies to work in NASA. I strongly believe that NASA stopped segregating white people from black people, because of the achievements of these four ladies.

In my opinion, I think that the women in Hidden Figures are amazing, but most people do not know about them. The four women in Hidden Figures stopped segregation in the workplace. The ladies calculated the trajectory of the rocket and analysed a lot of data that was useful to launch the first person to the moon.

This will affect the future because NASA is employing more women and people from all races. More people will be inspired to join NASA because now they employ people of all races. Sadly, Katherine Johnson died in 24, February 2020. Happily, Katherine Johnson got awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015. Soon, NASA will launch a rocket named after her. Also, there is a part of the Moon named after Dorothy Vaughan.

By David – Year 5



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