



St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter 8

6th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all, a warm welcome back as we come to the end of week one of the second half of the autumn term. This week has seen the start of a second national lockdown in England. Please be assured that we will continue to implement the measures we have been taking since September to keep school as safe as possible for everyone at this challenging time. Please remember that we are all here to support each other, so please talk and let us know if there is anything we can do to support you during this second lockdown. We ask everyone to please adhere to the rules to help keep yourself and others safe.

In Pippin Class this week they have been learning our new book "The Billy Goats Gruff". They have started the unit by building bridges for Miss Chestney to cross without being eaten by the troll. The children have been learning about how Christians believe that God created the world and have retold the creation story.

Orchard Class have been busy learning their new English text 'The Gas Mask'. They have enjoyed learning the story verbally and adding actions to the retelling. We will spend the next few weeks exploring portal stories and reading lots of them too such as Alice in Wonderland and The Chronicles of Narnia.





Circuits with Miss Smith

As many extracurricular clubs which children attend outside of school are currently temporarily shut, in order to help maintain their physical fitness and the other benefits provided by regular exercise, Miss Smith is extending her circuits club to every morning during the period of lockdown. If your child would like to attend, please could you let the office know which days they would like to attend? We do have to manage the numbers attending but we will try to accommodate as many children as possible. This will start from next Monday, 9th November.

After School Club

This week the children in Arts and Crafts club on Tuesday made some lovely woodland art using materials they collected in the school grounds. In Get Busy on Thursday, they also looked at what fungi was growing in the school grounds



Online Safety

Children and young people's lives have changed dramatically since March this year and children have been spending much more time at home. Because of this, we would like to reiterate the importance of staying safe online, particularly at the moment with the additional restrictions in place. Now more than ever it's important to talk to your child about staying safe online. Please ensure you are monitoring your child's online activity if they have access to devices at home. Please note that apps such as TikTok has an age restriction of 12+ and so will have inappropriate content for children of primary age.

We would like to draw your attention to an information leaflet from National Online Safety; "What Parents Need to Know About TikTok" which has been sent out alongside this newsletter. This may help you to discuss safer internet access with your child/ren and enable you to consider reviewing the settings on any devices they may use.

The NSPCC website also contains useful information about staying safe online. We will be holding an assembly in school next week to revisit this message. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Card Competition

Somerset Literacy Network, who provide some of the resources for our English curriculum, have sent us details of a competition being run by the National Literacy Trust. By designing a Christmas card, you could win lots of books! The closing date is 13 November – for more information and to enter a design, please go to the link below.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/competitions/national-christmas-card-design-competition/>

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,
Miss Smith