

28th April 2023

**Our School Christian Vision - 'Working together to build a firm foundation for learning and caring.'**

*Rooted in Matthew 7 24 – 25 'Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.'*

## Message from the Headteacher

This term our Christian value is friendship. During collective worship we have explored the story of the paralyzed man and his four friends who used their faith and determination to get him the help that he needed from Jesus. We looked at an acrostic poem to think about what a good friend was and the actions we could take to be one. Year 4 gave some lovely examples from their camp as to how they used team work, encouragement and kindness to support their friends whilst away. Attached to this weeks newsletter is our values newsletter to give you some ideas of how you could explore the value of friendship with your children at home.

Don't forget we have a bank holiday on Monday (1st May) and so the school will be closed.

On Friday next week (5th May) we will be holding a celebration in the afternoon to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Children are invited to come into school dressed in red, white and/or blue and bring a small snack to enjoy at the afternoon tea party. We suggest light food snacks suitable for a royal garden party such as a cucumber sandwich or a scone - we will provide each child with a small cake too! The children will spend some time during the day exploring activities related to this event. Parents are invited in at 2:30pm to hear the children sing some songs that they have been learning for the coronation.



Have a lovely weekend!

*Mrs West-Gaul*

## CHRISTIAN VALUE OF THE TERM: FRIENDSHIP



The writer of Ecclesiastes puts it very simply: 'if one falls down, a friend can lift him up'. Ecclesiastes 4:10

## Dates for Your Diary

1 May	May Bank Holiday
4 May	Mini Police Trip to Portishead
5 May	Coronation Celebration
8 May	Coronation Bank Holiday
9-12 May	KS2 SATs Week
15-19 May	Year 6 Residential Trip
22 May	School Photographs
26 May	PTA Non-Uniform Day & Cake Sale
29 May	Bank Holiday
30 May - 2 June	May Half term break
5 June	Start of term 6

## Parent Governor Election

Further to the recent election for a parent governor, we can inform you that Amy Merry has been re-elected as a parent governor.

Thank you to all the nominees who were willing to put themselves forward for this role.

We are fortunate to have an active and supportive governing body and a reminder that a list of our governors is available on the school website.

## Awards of the Week

Well done to all of our pupils who have achieved an award this week!



### Top Doodling Class

**DoodleMaths:** 1A

**DoodleTables:** 4A

Congratulations to all the pupils in the green zone!

	Star of the Week	Star Readers
<b>Acorns</b>	Blake Harlowe	Alfie Poppy
<b>Ash class</b>	Evelyn	Myka
<b>Birch class</b>	Orrie	Samantha
<b>Chestnut class</b>	Jessica	Jack
<b>Elm class</b>	Brie	Amelia S
<b>Hazel class</b>	Teddy	Harper
<b>Holly class</b>	Reggie	Carly
<b>Maple class</b>	Reid	Bella
<b>Oak class</b>	Teddy	Wesley
<b>Pine class</b>	Isaac	Nikita
<b>Rowan class</b>	Tommy	Freddie Pl
<b>Sycamore class</b>	Izzy	Dylan
<b>Willow class</b>	Tyler	Devon

## St John's Goes Solar!

Anyone passing by the School during the Easter holidays will have noticed a hive of activity around our middle playground... this is because we have had 93 solar panels installed to help us to reduce our electricity costs, and to reduce our impact on the environment - both of which are very important to us as a school.

The installation generates enough energy to charge 850,000 iPhones every year!!



**Bath & West  
Community Energy**

<b>PV Generator Output</b>	<b>37.2 kWp</b>
<b>Number of Solar Panels</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Roof area covered</b>	<b>178.4m<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Number of Invertors</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PV Generated Energy/year</b>	<b>34,350 kWh</b>
<b>Carbon saved/year</b>	<b>7.5 tonnes</b>
<b>Carbon saved over the 25 year life of the installation</b>	<b>186 tonnes</b>
<b>Proportion of the school's electricity demand met by the solar installation</b>	<b>28.4%</b>



## Earth Day Activities

As you will already know from last week's Purple Pages, last Friday we celebrated Earth Day at St. John's. This is a day now recognised all around the world on which people celebrate our wonderful planet and discuss ways in which we can look after it.

At St. John's, each year group focused on a different climate zone, ranging from the tropical regions near the equator in EYFS to the polar regions of the Arctic and Antarctic in the year 3. The children explored the different threats that different parts of the world are currently facing, but most importantly, they investigated the solutions to these problems and how we can make a huge difference here in Midsomer Norton. For example, year 4 considered various ways in which we can reduce our carbon footprint at home and at school, whilst year 1 investigated the benefits of wind power.

Here is a picture of the year 1s with their own crafted wind turbines!



Another important part of our Earth Day activities was the school council's cake sale. The children are delighted to inform you that we raised a whopping £102, meaning that we can now adopt an amur leopard for not just one year ... but for two whole years! Thank you to everyone who got involved and made a contribution. We are extremely grateful and excited about this investment that we can now make in the amur leopard's habitat. This will inevitably help other animals and plants too, therefore reviving biodiversity, which is one of the ways that we can reduce the rate of climate change!

## Mrs Jewell is Taking a Leap!

On 14th May, Mrs Jewell from Acorns Class will be jumping out of an aeroplane in aid of Down Syndrome UK.



We think she is really brave and generous, and wish her all the best with the jump - we are very proud of her! If you would like to support her by making a donation, please do so by scanning the QR code or visiting her [Just Giving page](#)



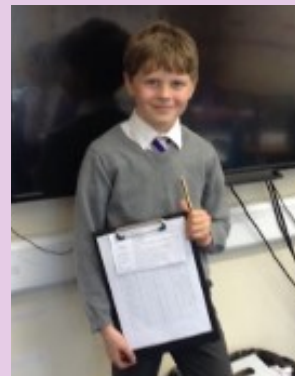
## School Council Eco Update

Before the Easter holidays, some members of the school council carried out a spot check to determine which electrical appliances were switched on whilst not in use. This took place during a sunny lunchtime, so most people were outside playing. The school council noticed that many appliances are being left on in classrooms even though they are not being used. This mainly included lights and interactive whiteboards.

To solve this issue, some children have started to label lights and electrical appliances with coloured dots to indicate whether they can be turned off. The children have decided to use a traffic-light system:

- Green dot = turn the appliance off if nobody is using it.
- Amber dot = ask an adult if it is ok to turn this appliance off.
- Red dot = this appliance must remain switched, so please do not touch.

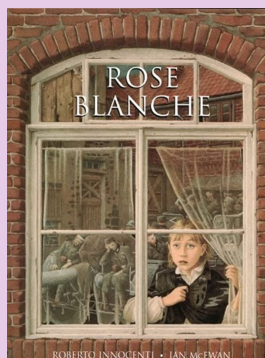
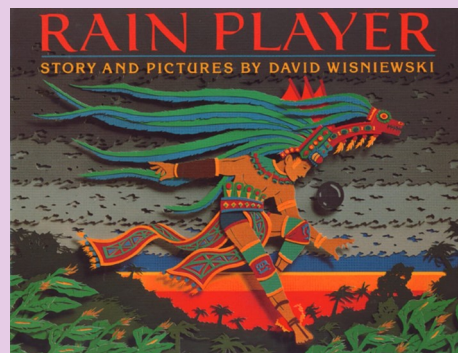
So far, the school council have 'dotted' about one third of the school and they will continue with this task when they have time next week.



At home, it would be great if you could talk to your child about our new 'dotting' system and see if they have noticed any of the coloured dots around school yet. Most importantly, you could have a discussion about why it is important to turn off electrical appliances. Not only will it contribute to reducing climate change, but it will also save the school money! Hopefully, the children will start switching off the lights and appliances at home too (if they haven't done so already).

## Reading in Year 5

Year 5 are really enjoying their guided reading topic at the moment! To learn more about Mayan culture for our history topic, we are currently reading *Rain Player* by David Wisniewski. Pupils have learnt fascinating facts about Mayan culture, such as the popular game pok-a-tok, and the importance of agriculture and weather patterns to the Mayan population. They have learnt about how Mayans would explain everyday phenomena, such as changes in weather, as actions created by their gods. We heard some brilliant facts from our children too, who had seen pok-a-tok taking place in Mexico. They also brought in amazing souvenirs to share with the class, such as Obsidian (used by the Mayans to check whether there was a solar eclipse). We look forward to more excitement to come in our Mayan topic in History, where our pupils will be able to put their newfound knowledge to good use!



We are also delving further into History in our English narrative topic this term. We are reading *Rose Blanche*, a story of a girl who discovers a concentration camp in the midst of the war and tries to make a stand to help those who were oppressed. Our children have started to develop excellent prose, using pathetic fallacy and dialogue, to recount the tale. We were moved by their heartfelt letters from the perspective of a soldier in war writing home to their loved ones. They are also impressing us with their spectacular summarising skills. It has been a term packed with inspiring historical fiction so far. We look forward to getting lost in mystical forests and performing hilarious poems in the weeks to come!

## Learning in Seedlings

At Next Steps our topic is "Here, there and everywhere". We are learning about all different types of transport.

We have attached pens to vehicles to draw on large pieces of paper, watching the marks they make as they travel along.

In maths we have matched numbered parking spaces with vehicles with the same number of spots on them.

But the highlight has definitely been the opportunity to see lorries and a real crane this week!

We watched it lift our old nursery building to make room for the new one. The children were so excited to watch it happening, and the grown ups too!



## Name Labelling & Lost Property

A reminder to please ensure that any clothing brought into school, including coats and non-uniform items are clearly labelled in order that we can return them to their rightful owner if misplaced.

Please could we also ask that you regularly check your child's clothing (PE kits and uniform especially).

We receive many reports of lost and yet named clothing, which can only have been picked up by mistake by another child and included into their kit without realising.

Thank you for your support with this!



## Out of School Achievements

During the Easter Holidays Joshua in year 2 was awarded his first stripe in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

His commitment and passion for the sport is outstanding and we look forward to watching his skills grow.

Well done Josh!

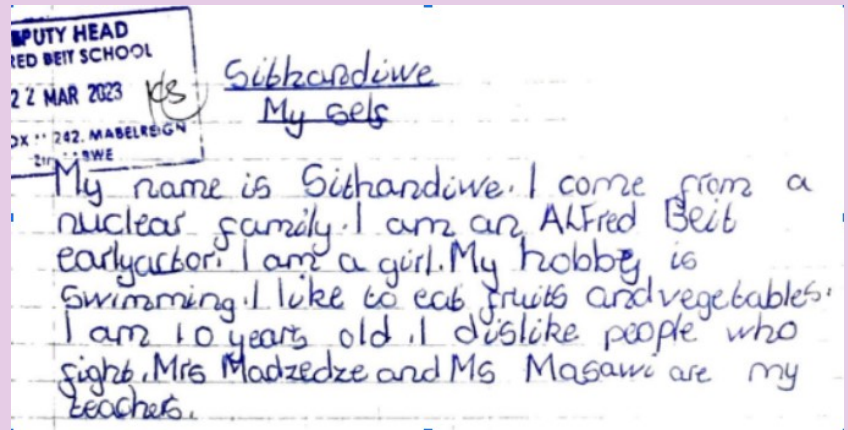


## Rotakids Penfriend

After hours of internet searching and email sending, the Rotakids have now successfully established a penfriend link with a group of children from Harare, which is the capital city of Zimbabwe (southern Africa)!

The children that we have made contact with all attend Alfred Beit Primary School and the intention is that we support them in establishing their own Rotakids club, just like the one we have here at St. John's. Hopefully, we will eventually be able to collaborate with them in inter-continental fundraising events... exciting times ahead!

This week we received our first package of letters from the children in Harare and we have begun writing our own responses, which we're hoping to finish and send off after the Bank Holiday weekends. We cannot wait to update you with more information about how this international relationship develops!



## Year 5's Trip to Bristol Gurdwara

The Year 5s had a wonderful day on Tuesday exploring the Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Bristol with our host Balbir. Starting the day with a trip to the Langar (a free community kitchen), the children learned all about the importance of equality, kindness and generosity amongst the Sikh community whilst enjoying the drinks and snacks offered. The children discussed surrounding artwork resembling the Golden Temple, based in Amritsar, and significant Gurus, applying all that they have learned in their recent religious studies.

We then travelled upstairs to the prayer hall where we were able to practise bowing to the Guru Granth Sahib (Holy Book) and discuss the ways in which Sikhs respect this sacred text. The children were particularly interested in the way that Sikhs treat this holy book as a living person - providing it with its own room in the Gurdwara. We were also fortunate enough to have been told some sacred narratives and hear our hosts recite some of the Japji Sahib in prayer during this time.

The children asked many questions about Sikh values and their commitment to wearing the 5Ks. They enjoyed seeing the kesh, kangha, kara, kachera, and kirpan in person and impressed the adults when discussing the challenges Sikhs, who commit to wearing each of these items everyday, may face in different contexts.

To finish our day, we spent time in St. George Park sharing what we had taken away from the visit. The year 5s loved picnicking together under the sun as a year group before returning back to school.

The children have enjoyed applying their learning to real life contexts and it has been a genuine pleasure for the teaching staff to see Year 5 engaging so beautifully throughout the day. As always, they represented St. John's beautifully showing respect, curiosity and enthusiasm in every given opportunity. An enormous thank you to parents for providing scarves for this trip!





 Bath & North East Somerset Council  
Improving People's Lives



# VAPING WEBINAR

**HAZEL CHEESMAN**  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Action on Smoking and Health

**CLARE LAKER**  
Public Health B&NES  
Development & Commissioning Manager

**RUTH SAMPSON**  
Health Improvement Officer - Tobacco Control, Public Health B&NES

**THIS WEBINAR IS AIMED AT PARENTS & CARERS**

**WEDNESDAY 24TH MAY**  
**ON ZOOM**  
**19:00 - 20:00PM**

To book a free space on this webinar click on the link:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/vaping-webinar-for-parents-and-carers-tickets-597745632277>



# Cook it

**FREE five week cookery course for parents/carers and children**

Join a group session to discover how to make easy, healthy budget friendly recipes in person or online

- Free recipe book and NEW video recipe links
- Support with meal planning and budgeting
- Encouraging children to eat balanced meals
- Ingredients provided or funded with £30 voucher


**Upcoming start dates (one session per week);**

- Wed 3rd May - 31st May, 4-5.30pm, Orchard Hall, Midsomer Norton.
- Wed 19th April- 17th May, 4.30-5.30pm, online via Microsoft Teams.
- Thurs 18th May- 22nd June, 4-5.30pm, Oldfield Park Junior School, Bath (no session 2nd June).
- Tues 30th May- Fri 2nd June, 11-12.30pm, St Michael's Junior Church school, Twerton (May half term course).
- Wed 7th June- 5th July, 4-5.30pm, Castle Primary School, Keynsham.

**Contact the Community Wellbeing Hub to book on**  
**Tel: 0300 247 0050 Email: BATHNES.thehub@hcrgrcaregroup.com**

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## Coronation Events

Join us for some coronation themed fun at the Library!

Activity	Suitable for	Date & Time
<b>Bath Central Library</b>		
Crown Making	Suitable for children of all ages	Saturday 29 April and 6 May 1.00 - 4.00pm
Coronation Crafts	Suitable for children of all ages	Saturday 29 April and 6 May 1.00 - 4.00pm
Nature Trail	Suitable for children of all ages	Saturday 29 April and 6 May During opening hours
Ghillie Wakes up	Open to ages 4 - 8	Saturday 29 April 2.00pm
Recycled Gardens	For Adults and Children	Saturday 29 April and 6 May 1.00 - 4.00pm
<b>Midsomer Norton Library</b>		
Crown Making	Suitable for children of all ages	Saturday 29 April and 6 May 10.00 - 12.30pm
Coronation Crafts	Suitable for children of all ages	Saturday 29 April and 6 May 10.00 - 12.30pm
Nature Trail	Suitable for children of all ages	Saturday 29 April and 6 May During opening hours
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<b>Keynsham Library</b>		
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**All our activities are free, just drop in and enjoy yourself!**

 Improving People's Lives

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES w/c 1 May



**Bath Central Library**

**Storytime Session**  
Tuesday 10.30 - 11.00am 2 May

**Baby Bounce & Rhyme, Family Fun**  
Wednesday 10.30 - 11.00am 3 May

**Art in the Library - Immaterial by Alison Harper**  
Mon - Sat During opening hours 3 - 26 May

**Lego Lab, Family Fun Drop In**  
Mon - Sat During opening hours

**Sensory Space, for families with children and young adults with sensory needs**  
Mon - Sat, Book a Session via Eventbrite

**Keynsham Library**

**Baby Bounce & Rhyme**  
Tuesday 9.30 - 10.00am 2 May  
10.30 - 11.00am

**Storytime & Craft**  
Thursday 11.00 - 11.30am 4 May

**Midsomer Norton Library**

**Storytime Sessions**  
Wednesday 10.30 - 11.00am 3 May

**Our Coronation events will be held on 29 April & 6 May. Visit the blog to find out more!**



**Recycle an Ex Library Book Competition**  
11 Feb - 22 July

Collect an entry form from Keynsham, Bath or Midsomer Norton library

For any ticketed events, the link will be online via Social Media or via the blog.

