

## Message from the Headteacher

We have reached the end of our second week of Google classroom and once again I am incredibly proud at how well our pupils have adapted to learning online. Teachers have shared with me some wonderful work that they have received this week which is great to see. Keep up the good work! I will be announcing our star of the week awards on our school Facebook page later today.

From 1-7 February 2021 schools across the UK will take part in Children's Mental Health Week. This is especially important this year as we all learn to adapt to the challenges that we are facing. At St John's teachers will be including some wellbeing activities into their online learning. Please also find attached to this ParentMail our weekly wellbeing newsletter.

We have really enjoyed seeing all of the photos and videos that have been sent in showing off your various talents. We really do have very talented pupils at St John's and will be sharing these with you via our Facebook page soon.

We have also enjoyed the book reviews that our year 5 and 6 pupils have shared with us. It's great to see that you are all reading such a wide variety of books. Next week it's the turn of our year 3 and 4 pupils.

Mrs West-Gaul

## Free 'Maths no problems' work books

We have a number of 'maths no problems' books suitable for years 1 - 6. Please contact the school office if you would like to come and collect some.

## NSPCC Numbers Day

For the past two years, we have celebrated NSPCC Number Day as a school to raise money for children who need additional support in their lives. This year, Number Day is on **Friday 5th February**.

Historically on Number Day, children and staff are encouraged to celebrate by coming in dressed as something mathematical or number-themed to raise money for the NSPCC.

Given that we can't all be together this year, we felt we'd still like to celebrate this day virtually with the children. Therefore, we'd like to welcome children to attend their Google Meet sessions dressed as something number-themed; this could be from a numbered football shirt to coming in as a dice or calculator. Their teacher will also be planning an exploratory Maths lesson, such as measuring capacities with different liquids, linking their Geography map skills with coordinates, or problem solving/code breakers.

As we can't all be together to see the creative ideas in person, we'd love for you to send any photos of costumes or Maths home learning activities to the office so that these can be shared in the following week's Purple Pages and ask that you please spare some money to donate to this important cause: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/ways-to-give/donate/>

## Together with Music

We are really pleased to be working with Together with Music (TwM) whose aim is to link every care home in the UK with a local school or community group.



In these particularly challenging days, we are delighted to be able to provide some positivity and joy through music to our local care home link, MHA Church Court. This partnership will not only tackle loneliness and isolation of some of the most vulnerable in our community but will also encourage self-confidence, creativity and community spirit amongst the children who take part. We believe this project to be of huge value at a time when looking after one another's mental health has never been more important.

You can discover more about the work of Together with Music through their website [www.togetherwithmusic.org.uk](http://www.togetherwithmusic.org.uk) and follow them on Facebook / Twitter / Instagram - @intergentwm

Look out in the coming weeks for more information on how we will be taking part!

## Free Vodafone data SIM cards

Please see information below regarding free data SIM cards. If this would be of help to any of our families, please contact the school office to arrange collection.

**#KeepConnecting**

**Free Data SIMs for Schools**

**schools.connected**

At Vodafone UK we want to do our part to help everyone **#KeepConnecting** during this difficult time. That's why, as part of our schools.connected plan, we're giving away up to **250,000 data SIMs** - with 30GB to use for 90 days. These will help school children to continue learning from home on our award-winning network, despite any COVID-19 restrictions.

**Turn overleaf on how to get started with your free Data SIM**

### Let's get you connected

**Smart Laptop / Dongle**  
If you have a device with a slot for a SIM card, just pop it in and you're good to go!

**Smartphone**  
Pop the SIM card in your phone. You can then use that data to connect or 'tether' your other devices by using the 'Hotspot' feature on the phone.

- If your phone is **locked to another network**, do not fear – you just need to contact your network provider's customer service team to request for your phone to be unlocked.
- You won't be able to use your phone to make calls/texts while using this data SIM.
- You'll be able to enjoy **30GB data for 90 days** – this will start once you insert the SIM into your phone and start using the data.

### Where to get help

Contact our customer service team on **03333 040191** (free from a Vodafone mobile)

Book a free 30-minute tech support session with our team by going to: **[www.vodafone.co.uk/techteam](http://www.vodafone.co.uk/techteam)**

Our Digital Parenting site has lots of resources to make sure you are getting the most out of being connected while keeping yourself safe. Take a look by going to: **[www.vodafone.co.uk/digitalparenting](http://www.vodafone.co.uk/digitalparenting)**

### What happens after 90 days from the activation date?

Your 30GB data plan will automatically expire in 90 days from the activation date. However, you can still top up the SIM with more data once the 90 days has finished - just head to **[www.vodafone.co.uk/topup](http://www.vodafone.co.uk/topup)**. You will then be charged in accordance with your chosen price plan.

For more info visit: **<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/schoolsconnectedterms>**





## Book Reviews from Year 5 and 6

**Book Review**

Title: A day in the life of a poo, a gnu and you  
 Author: Mike Barfield  
 Publisher: Buster Books  
 Storyline: Comic style information book.  
This book is about the human body, animal life and Earth and science.  
Short factual stories

What I liked best: Cool  
Colourful  
Cartoon pictures

What I didn't like: Nothing

Illustrations ☒ box

Too few ☐ ☒ Interesting ☐  
 Just right ☒ ☐ Boring ☐  
 Too many ☐

Word difficulty ☒ box


Too easy ☐ Just right ☒ Too hard ☐

Comment: fun and interesting.

Name of reviewer: Daisy  
 Date started: ?  
 Date finished: ?

Favourite character Rainbow

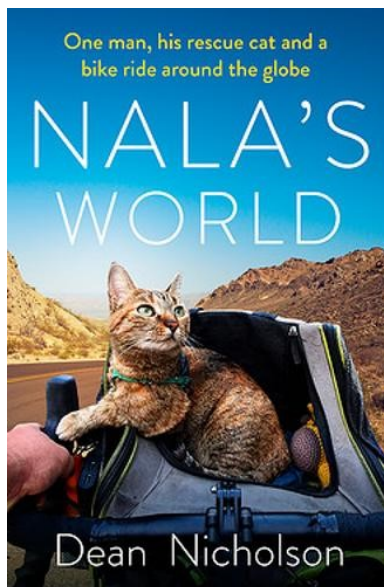
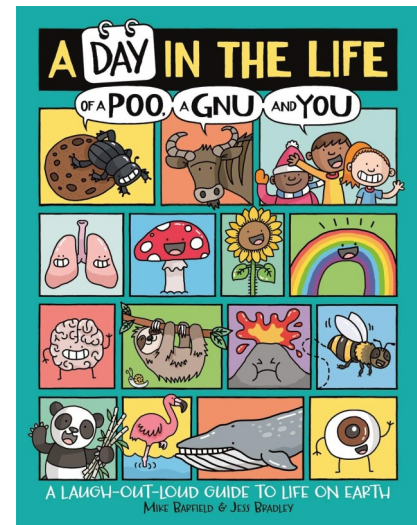
Picture of favourite character



Recommendation ☒ box

Highly recommended ☐  
 Reasonable ☐  
 Not recommended ☐

Daisy M 5B



Alice K 5B

NALA'S World  
by Dean Nicholson

This book is a non fiction book. It is a book about a man how goes to cycle around the world. When he got to Trebinje, Bosnia he found a stray kitten. He takes it to the vets and he found out it was a girl, but she had a chest infection and he had to stay in a hotel for a month. After that he decides to keep the cat and called her Nala. Dean took her around the world with him. I would rate this book 5/5. I would recommend this book if you love cats.

Emily W 6B

The Ickabog

Most people have heard of J.K. Rowling, the author of the Harry Potter books. She, having finished all of Harry's adventures, she decided to write something new.

The Ickabog is her all new story about a cunning Lord, a sweet girl and a brave boy. Last but definitely not least there is the Ickabog him (or her) self. The said-to-be vicious monster is actually a kind caring creature but he has a big problem.

I love this book because it is full of adventure, description and amazing illustrations. I would definitely recommend it to people who love mystery and adventure stories.





Jennifer H 6B

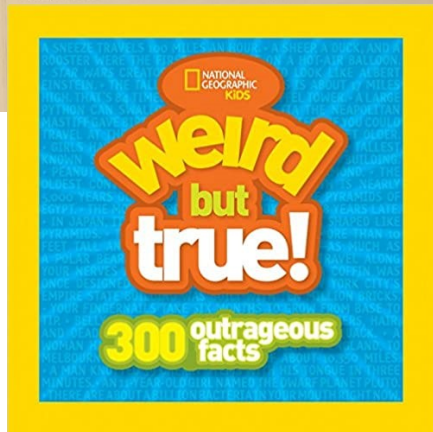
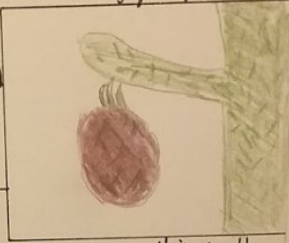
Title: Weird but true  
Author: various  
Illustrator: various  
Publisher: HarperCollins

This is a intriguing non-fiction book that, as the name suggests, has some wonderful and weird facts. Such as a "Lions Mane Jellyfish" has over 800 tentacles, or, Oshigees are hired to push passengers on trains in rush hours! This is such a thrilling book because there are so many facts you would never know otherwise, unless you spent something wrong on google! There is also two art pages on Fleaky fossils, that you can actually buy! Pitaya, or dragon fruit, grows on cacti and is known for its bright colours. Its pollinated by nocturnal creatures such as moths and bats.

### Cheese of the day

A whole two pages is dedicated to this stinky subject, and it is a page of interest on any Turophiles out there. A turophile is a person who loves cheese. This small section is a cheesy campout for a fact book! Casu Marzu is a seriously stinky Sardinian cheese that is injected with live maggots and is illegal in many countries! Or Cheddar cheese ice cream is a favourite in the Philippines!

I loved this intriguing fact book, the only thing wrong with it was that I couldn't put it down!



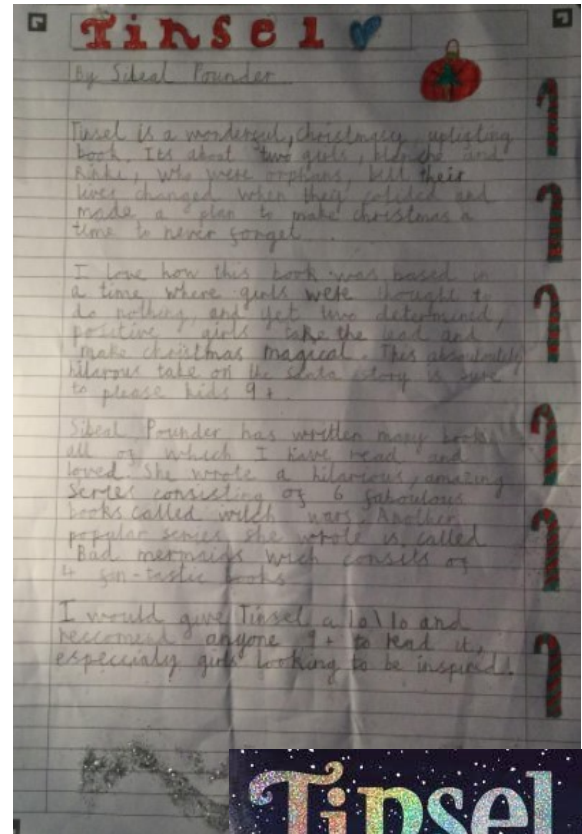
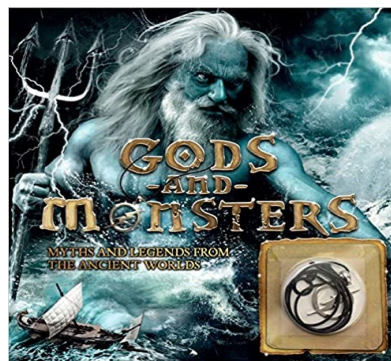
Dominic Evans 5A

Star Rating: \*\*\*\*\*

This is my absolute favourite book. I've read it more than ten times and I'm still not bored of it. From Greeks and Romans to Vikings and Ancient Egyptians, Stella Caldwell pulls you back in history to look at the most famous, fabulous and frightening gods and monsters of all time.

I particularly enjoyed reading about Hercules and his twelve impossible tasks. The story of the Midgard Serpent was new to me and it opened my eyes to the mythical side of life and its magic. The artwork in the book is magnificent and drawn in the style of ancient carvings. An added bonus is that the book comes with a free thunderbolt talisman. This is a really nice touch (especially for fans of Zeus as you can wear his mighty lightening rod for protection!)

I would heavily recommend this book to those god nerd out there, and anyone interested in history, ancient religion, and mythology. If you enjoy this book, you may also like Legends of



Evie B 6A

