



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth*

5th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all managed to have a lovely half term. We were very fortunate to have such good weather. School was open throughout the whole of half term for children of critical workers. I would like to thank all the staff that went into school to provide this care. I would also like to thank all the other staff who spent their half term preparing for our return to school this week.

We have welcomed back children of critical workers and those in vulnerable groups, and the Reception and Year 6 children. We have '11 Bubbles' across the school which all operate on different times and timetables. Thank you to the parents for helping us by socially distancing and keeping to the times for your child's bubble. Also thank you to all the staff who are working so hard to make both the 'Home Learning' and 'School Bubbles' work. All teachers and teaching assistants are experiencing working with different children in different year groups but as always they have risen to the challenge. I would also like to say a special thank you to our support staff especially Mrs Hazell and Mr Aldworth who as always have gone above and beyond in helping us to be ready.

The highlight of the week for me was the "Armonico Concert does the Virtual Albert Hall Concert" on Wednesday. This was an opportunity for us all to come together for a unique experience. We were able to capture moment of children watching the concert in school and from home. I had 2 favourite moments when I saw Karen and Kevin dancing as I had been in the Albert Hall when they performed live, and seeing the photograph of our Year 5 children who had been due to travel to London to participate in the performance and our school name come up at the end.



"Inspiring each other to learn, in the light of Christ"

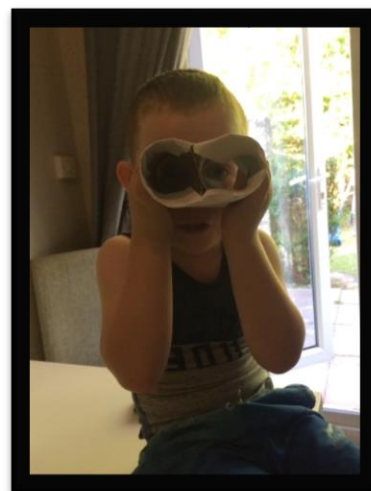
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In the Foundation stage it was great to watch them doing work on the 'Rainforest'. Freya coloured and labelled a picture of the Red-Eyed Frog, Ava did some writing and Robert made binoculars!



A kind
tailless salamander
out of the egg
They breathe through
gills.

The frog
lives on land.

The tadpoles
grow legs.

The frog
is very young.
It breathes with
lungs
but
still has a
tail.

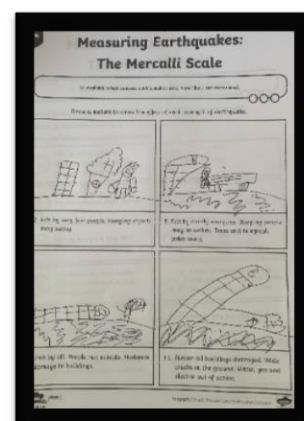
The frog
has no
tail.

The tadpoles
grow
limbs.

A drawing of a white dove with its wings spread, standing on a ground covered with colorful, almond-shaped seeds or pebbles in shades of orange, yellow, and pink.



In Year 4 their topic work is about 'Earthquakes'. Here is some great work from Harriet:



I am learning so much about the 'Victorians' from our Year 5 children. Ciara, Valeria and Aidan taught me all the different jobs that children had to undertake.

Children jobs in the Victorian times

In the Victorian era poor children worked at a very young age, you would start at the age of three or four and then when you got too big then you would just get replaced well that for the chimney sweep if you got too big then you will get replaced. Now that isn't the only job that the Victorian children had to do there was lots more.


The chimney sweep.



Poor children in the Victorian times had to go to work and the chimney sweep was only one. You would have to go up the chimney of a rich man or lady and clean their chimney or you would go up to see what the blockage was and it would normally be children that got stuck because they grew to big so the smaller one would get them out with there sweeper and then clean the chimney.

Factories work.

In the factory was probably the most dangerous job in the Victorian era for children and adults. You would have to clean the machines or do this one that was a cotton machine and you would have to pull cotton and make it then once it broke they would have to put it back together now if you were too small the master would tie a wood block to your feet so that you could get the work done and there were lots more but that would take forever.




Scare the birds from the field.

The bird scarer was basically a human scarecrow it would stand in the fields and scare the birds away, so they didn't eat the crops and seeds they did this by making a noise or chasing them off.



The coal mines.

In the coal mines the children would have to go down there collect coal put it in a huge mine cart then one push it along then the other collect more coal and put it in the mine cart.





Children did different types of work like coal mines, chimney sweep, factory workers, birds away from fields, farm workers, Bitter making etc.

Many children worked in mines. They were really dangerous places to work; roofs caved in, there were sometimes gas explosions. Older children were employed as "coal bearers". This involved carrying loads of coal on their backs in big baskets. Small children were perfect for chimney sweeps because since they were small they could fit through narrow and small chimneys.

Jobs for children in Victorian times

Jobs that children had to do

- Coal mines
- Chimney sweep
- Factory worker
- Farm worker
- Servant in a big house
- Mill worker
- Working in a ship yard

Dangerous jobs for children

Some jobs were very dangerous for children.

In factories there were accidents with machines and sometimes children died. They had to work long hours and sometimes fell asleep on the machine and died.

Chimney sweeps got cut legs and elbows. Sometimes children got stuck or the fire was lit when a boy was in the chimney.

Coal mines were very dangerous because they had to work underground, carrying heavy coal. Sometimes the roof collapsed or there were explosions.

Victorian street children

Many poor children worked and lived on the streets. They had to do jobs like selling matches, firewood, buttons, flowers or bootlaces. They also had to polish shoes and sweep the streets for rich people. They had to work very long hours and didn't get much money.

Year 6 have begun work on a new book "Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo". One of their tasks was to write a short balanced argument. Here are some examples from Charlotte, Sharon and Bella:

KENSUKE'S KINGDOM

WALT: write a short balanced argument

I think sailing around the world as a child is a great idea because not only can they go to new countries, but learn new languages.

But on the other hand, people would think I'm nuts because that child isn't getting a proper education.

Another reason I crebate it's a great conception is because the child would be happy to have no school and teachers to boss them around.

Additionally on the other hand, people also would assume that kid couldn't cope without life-long friends.

But as a fact, the family will always be together no matter what happens for a long time.

But Another interpretation from the people, is that the family cannot go along way without earning any money.

Writing task 3.

Is it a good idea for a child to take time out of school to sail around the world with family?

If I was the child in question I would think, its a very exciting idea to sail around the world with my family. The possibilities of what I might see and do are quite thrilling and I believe that I would see different countries, different cultures and exciting animals, taste different and exotic food and visit once in a lifetime historical places.

However taking a child out of school would have a very negative impact on their education. We learn so much just in one day at school that if I was out of school for a year I would be at least a year behind all the other children my age, that would have a very negative impact on my education and my grades particularly going to secondary school. I believe that families also get fined for taking children out of school now so it could be very expensive.

I conclude that although it's a very exciting prospect sailing around the world and it would have some educational value in seeing different cultures and different historical places I do not know if that is enough to outweigh the negative effect on my academic education.

Wednesday 3rd June 2020

WALT: write a balanced argument

Is it a good idea for a child to take time out of school to sail around the world with family?

There are many pros and cons for something on this large life-changing decision. It would make more sense to think about and consider. Below I will support and debate some of the arguments for and against.

Many people believe that sailing around the world with your family would be a great idea because it would be an amazing experience to visit new and weird places. It requires money, incredible sight on a family boat with spending time together, full of adventure.

Another reason in favour of such a sailing experience is the quality time with your family. The chance to have a relaxing life, escape from your worries, it's something many people would love. Being able to use technology and even time for children could be seen as an added benefit.

Furthermore, being out working up to the smelt of waves, lapping and being sailing is brilliant for your mental health. Children can learn all about the world, the ocean, sailing and nature. The family would have peace and be at one with nature.

On the other hand, some people think differently and believe that taking time out of school would be a bad idea because of the lack of formal education for your child. Children would miss out on learning facts which is important for their social development and would make it difficult returning to normal life.

Then I came across Mia and Joel's chicks. They had the eggs incubating and they posted photographs in their classrooms for everyone to see.



Thank you for sharing.

They were asking everyone to help to name them but I am not sure what they decided on in the end!



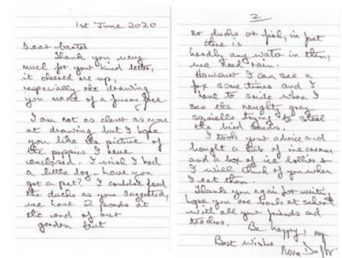
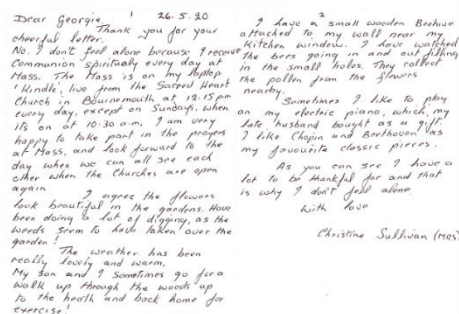
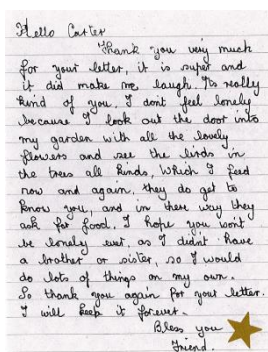
Yesterday I received a message to say that Jacye (who used to attend St. Mary's) and his sister Grace in Year 5 were going to be 'International performers' on Thursday evening and they performed a live Facebook concert called 'Let's break it together' a tribute to the NHS. Congratulations to them both on a great performance and thank you to Jayce for his kind words!



This week we celebrated 'Pentecost' and as we talked about the gift of the 'Holy Spirit' we tried our best to focus on the the two Gospel Values of 'Peace' and 'Courage'.



Just before half term our children were encouraged to write to some of the older parishioners of St Anthony's parish who have been isolated for many weeks often on their own. The letters have obviously really cheered up the parishioners as we have had some lovely replies.



Once again can I thank you for your patience and your continued support. If you need any help, support or advice please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Armstrong

Helen Armstrong
Headteacher