



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 6th November 2020 | No. 5

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write this we have begun our next lockdown, but I am optimistic that we are far more ready for it than last time! We have plans in place if we need to close and have a clear remote offer, but I am delighted that the government have seen the importance of continuing education for children and that schools are remaining open. However, we all, as a school community, need to take every precaution to help keep one another safe. We are continuing to keep rooms well ventilated and are doing all we can to keep socially distanced from one another and have ensured hand hygiene is of the utmost importance. We do have a number of people within our community who are more vulnerable, and for that reason staff are going to now be wearing masks in corridors, where they can not maintain social distancing. They will not be wearing them when they are within their year group bubble. You will have seen they are also wearing visors/masks at drop off and pick up times. You will appreciate I have a duty of care for all of the school community, children and adults, and we, as a school, have to put everyone's safety first. This is in line with the government guidance that states that for Primary schools, *"In situations where social distancing between adults in settings is not possible (e.g. when moving around in corridors and communal areas), settings have the discretion to recommend the use of face coverings for adults on site, for both staff and visitors."*

The staff had an excellent learning day for our INSET day just before half term. We have made some considerable improvements to our IT systems so that we are now able to utilise the O365 suite of resources. During our training, we have learnt how to utilise some of these to enhance our remote offer. Staff have become accustomed to the extensive opportunities of Teams. All classes are now a "Team" and we will be writing to you about this in more detail early next week. We will be gradually moving our remote offer from our website onto Teams, in the weeks ahead. As you can appreciate this has been a huge learning curve for staff, and I am very grateful to Mrs McLeod for her enthusiasm and expertise in supporting and leading staff in this initiative.

For collective worship this half term, we are continuing our theme of 'Count your Blessings' and are particularly exploring our school values of Hope, Compassion and Trust. This week the children have reflected upon school life and how all of our values resonate here. I have attached some of these reflections in this newsletter. Please do have a read.

Many of the classes have had inspiration days this week, to launch their learning for this half term—again there are some articles overleaf that capture the fun they have had.

We had our first ever Virtual Open Morning this week for prospective Reception parents (Intake in September 2021). The next one is next Wednesday at 7pm. Please do pass the word to friends and neighbours who are at that stage of their children's learning. But do go on the website to watch our virtual tour. It is absolutely lovely and really captures the essence of St Paul's. Our Year 6 did a great job narrating and thank you to Robert Glass who put it together. It is well worth a watch.

Wishing you a restful weekend,

Best wishes,

Mrs Alden

UNIFORM

We are allowing the children in KS2 to carry on wearing polo shirts if preferred for the time being as we know that they are easier to wash more frequently than shirts and ties. Please also note that children are only to wear school sweatshirts in school.

There seem to be a few non-regulation designs being worn!

As per our uniform list, please would you make sure that your child has navy or black joggers for PE (as plain as possible).

Thank you.

CHICKEN POX VIRUS IN SCHOOL

We need to report to you that we have a few children who are off with chicken pox (in KS1).

OPEN EVENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

Mrs Alden will be speaking to prospective parents live via a webinar on Wednesday 11th November at 7 pm. There are virtual tours of the school on our website along with FAQs.



Inspiration Days

As part of our Fantastic Festivals topic in year 2, we have been learning about Guy Fawkes and The Gunpowder Plot in History. We learnt what happened and why we still celebrate today. To inspire us we made and burned our own Guy!



Let's go exploring...

Year 1 had their topic inspiration day on

Monday. Unfortunately we had to postpone the den building as the weather had been so windy but we still did a scavenger hunt



outside and made great backpacks and thought about what we would need to be great explorers. We drew and labelled them to 'pack' our backpacks. We had hot chocolate to warm us up!

A very BIG thank you...

Just before half term, all year 6 children were presented with a dictionary kindly donated by the Rotary Club. We are really grateful to the Rotary Club for providing our children with the lovely dictionaries which have already been put to good use.



Dates for Autumn Term (new dates in red)

- 11th Nov - 7 pm - Virtual Open Eve (R21)
- 12th Nov - YR Photo in Surrey Mirror
- 12th & 13th Nov - Nasal Flu Immunisations
- W/B 16th Nov - Y1&2 Virtual Multi-Skills
- 23rd Nov - Y3 Victorian Day
- W/B 23rd Nov - KS2 Virtual X Country
- W/B 23rd Nov - Y6 Bikeability (Grp 1)
- W/B 30th Nov - Y6 Bikeability (Grp 2)
- 11th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day
- 18th December - 1.30 pm - End of Term
- 4th January 2021 - INSET Day
- 5th January 2021 - First Day of Term

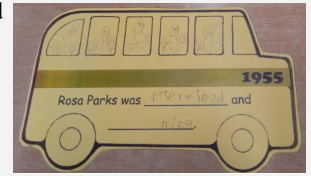
PLEASE FIND ATTACHED OTHER EXTERNAL COURSES WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST

Black History Month



October was Black History Month and in the week before half term each class studied an important historical figure. Reception studied Mae Jemison and then produced a really lovely rocket to show how she was important in space travel.

Year 1 studied Rosa Parks and produced a piece of work expressing how she felt. Year 2 looked at the importance of Mary Seacole while Year 3 came more into the present day and explored the amazing



poetry of Benjamin Zephaniah. Year 4 looked at the inventor of the traffic lights (Garet Morgan) and Year 5 explored famous Black sports personalities. Finally, year 6 studied Martin Luther King and produced posters showing why he was important in helping making everyone more equal. All the school also looked at the speech by Martin Luther King and created their own short dream speeches. One example from year 6: 'I have a dream that men, women and people of all nations can all live equally and be treated with fairness. I have a dream that pollution will not exist and



humans will live in harmony with wildlife and that every creature will be treated with kindness.' Finally this week all the school have completed a Black History treasure hunt to enable them to understand the significant contribution people of different race and culture have in the world of sport, literature, science and politics.

Virtual Competition 2 October 2020

KS1 had a fantastic week practising their speed bounce, ready to compete against all the other Dorking Schools in their virtual competition. The children gained many personal bests during the week and worked so well to bounce to their best!

After a week of fantastic skills shown by KS1, completing their multi skills virtual competition, KS2 were raring to go, ready to compete the 2nd virtual competition of the year. The corridors were full of excitement and nerves early in the week, before the children headed out to the field in their classes on Thursday.

The sun shone and the weather, unlike the day before, was balmy! The children all showed perseverance and determination when running their races, with many children gaining personal bests for the year. The results have been submitted and I will be able to share the results after half term.

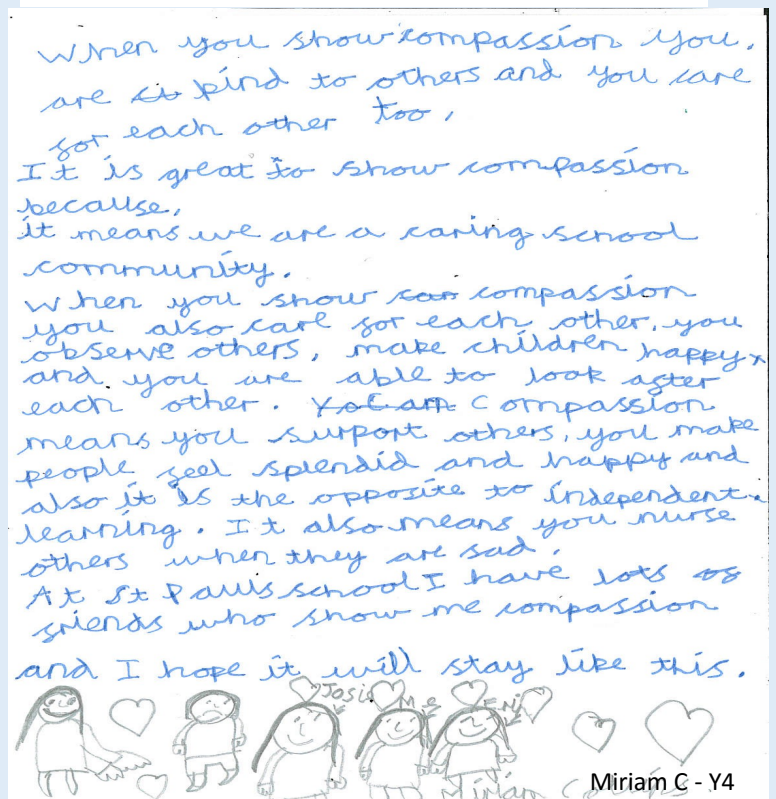
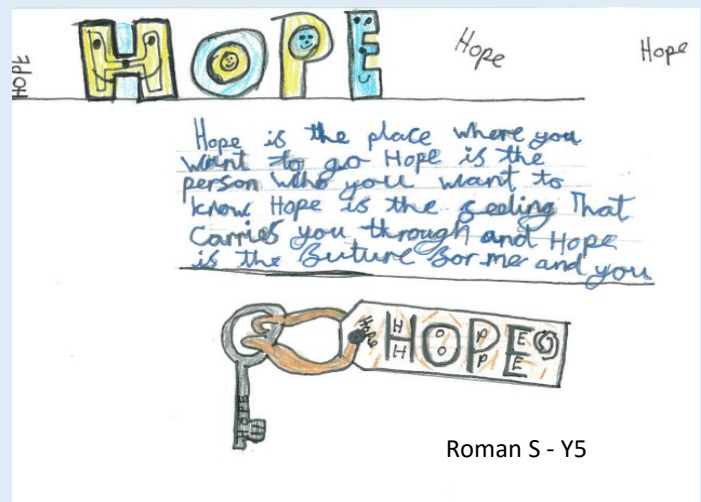
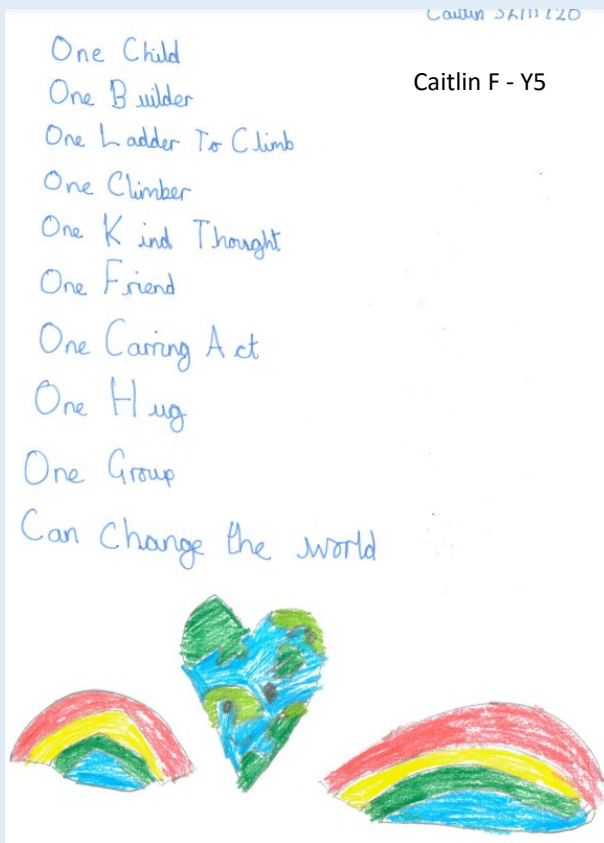
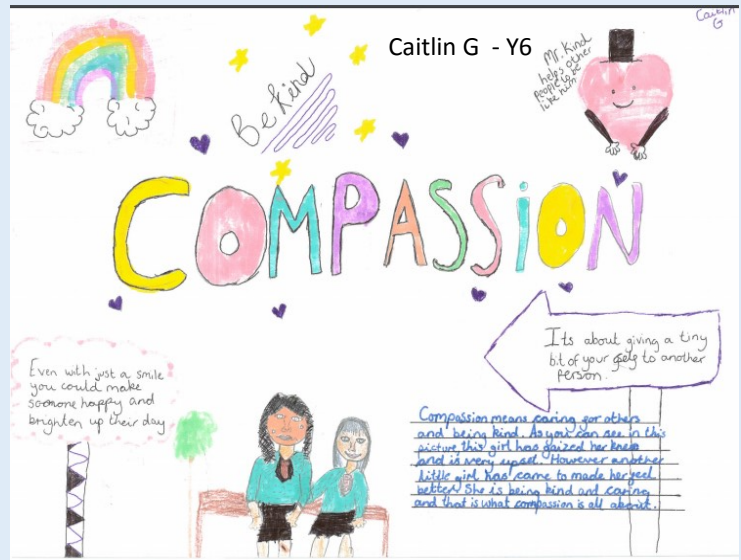
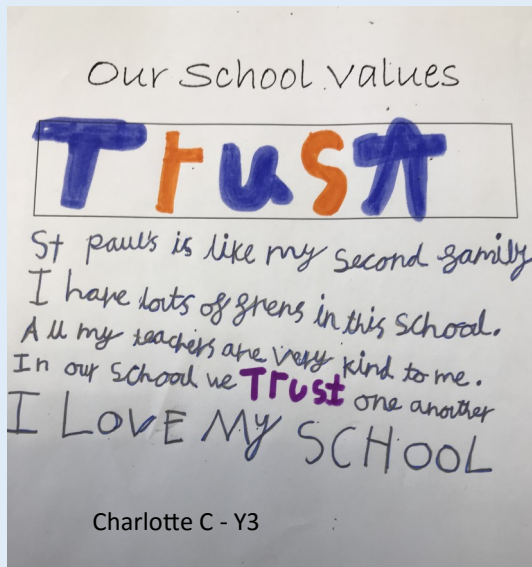
Huge congratulations to everyone who took part in these competitions. It was great to see so many smiles!

Happy Shoes Day

It was lovely to see such a whole school effort from children and adults alike, wearing their shoes that made them happiest for 'Happy Shoes Day.' We saw a wide range of shoes from the comfiest of slippers to fur lined boots, shoes with flashing lights to leopard skin prints to name but a few. The children loved wearing their happy shoes to show off their individuality. It was also a great way to encourage many families to walk, park and stride, cycle or scoot to school as part of a healthy lifestyle and stepping away from cars to reduce congestion and pollution for our children on St Paul's Road West. Thank you for all your contributions to the Living Streets charity, who we have been working closely with over the last year to promote active travel at St Paul's. As we step into lockdown, we hope lots of families will be able to continue to walk to and from school.



Reflections related to our school and how the children feel that we articulate our values here..



NB. As a reminder, we have attached our school values to the newsletter, with our statement of intent for each of them. You will have seen these on the school website.

