



We are growing
our learning

St John's Green Primary School

Learn to Live, Live to Learn

Newsletter

We ♥
Maths

We are all
writers ...



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Manchester

All of our thoughts have this week turned to Manchester and the awful events of Monday night at the Manchester Arena. None of us can possibly condone what happened and the tragic loss of life.

Yesterday morning at 11.00a.m., both of our schools fell silent as along with schools, businesses, etc all over the country we remembered and thought about those people that had lost their lives.

It is not easy to explain to our children that there are people out there who do not respect each other and who do not value the different beliefs and cultures that co-exist in our country, in our communities and in our schools. It is very important that in our community of St John's Green, we continue to celebrate our differences. We are all different and our different beliefs and cultures should always be respected.

We have put on our Twitter account, some links that could help us to clarify with our children what happened. In addition, on the reverse of the newsletter is some advice specifically for parents that we have been given.

Dinner Menus

New school dinner menus have been sent out this week with the new rota starting straight after half term. Please note the two different picnic lunches linked to the Sports Days. Please remember if paying by Sims Agora (please do) then we still need a completed menu returned to the school offices so we can make sure your child has their menu choice. Many thanks.

Awards

Year 6 (Trinovantes) - Heleina Tolosa
Year 5 (Oysters) - Evan Jones
Year 4 (Castle) - Lola Folkard
Year 4 (Cavalier) - Martha McLean
Year 3 (Dutch) - Aun Ameen
Year 3 (Iceni) - Lexi Noone
Year 2 (Mercury) - Mackenzie O'Shea
Year 2 (Claudius) - Amy O'Gorman
Year 2 (Romans) - Mae Grimwade
Year 1 (Eagles) - Annie Ain
Year 1 (Circus) - Mila Turner
Year 1 (Roses) - Ali Ahmad
Foundation (Chariot) - Oliver Scaife
Foundation (Star) - Lukas West
Foundation (Jumbo) - Dominic Krivickas
Attendance - Chariot
Heads - Jumbo, Chariot & Star

Foundation Fantasy World Morning



As part of their Fantasy World topic, Foundation parents were invited in to work with their child to create their imaginary world in a shoe

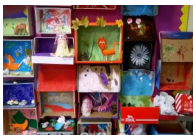
box. The children created some amazing worlds and proudly took them into the hall where all the foundation children paraded

around to view each other's work.



It is perhaps a little difficult to know who enjoyed it more - the children or the parents and competition was certainly rife amongst certain parents. The shoe box worlds are now displayed in the foundation

classrooms. A brilliant morning and some fantastic work. Thank you to everyone who was able to come in and support and get creative.



At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.

Jane D. Hull

Half Term

Please remember that next week is Half Term and the school is closed. We start again on Monday 5th June.

Assembly Theme for next week: Understand that everyone is unique and Special.

Article 30: You have the right to practise your own culture, language and religion or any you chose. Minority groups need special protection of this right.

Mercury Bug Hunt

On Wednesday Mercury went Bug Hunting for little critters for a Bug Hotel. They also collected all the resources a bug could possibly need to live comfortably.

Once back in the classroom, the children were using their maths skills to tally and draw bar charts.



Aya's Pink Day

The massive total of £1040 has now been raised for Aya. On behalf of Aya, her parents and the school, thank you so much for your generosity. We have been told that pictures from Aya's Pink day will be in today's Gazette.

Diary Dates

Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June. Half Term
Wednesday 7th June. 9.00a.m. - 10.15 a.m. Open Morning.
Thursday 8th June. Year 4 to Highwoods Country Park. (Survival)
Thursday 8th June. Jumbo and Star to Cudmore Country Park. (My Fantasy World)
Friday 9th June. Chariot to Cudmore Country Park. (My Fantasy World)
Friday 9th June. 2.00p.m. PTA Summer Fair Meeting @ Town. Please come along to help with our Summer Fair.
Monday 12th - Friday 16th June. Year 1 Phonics Screening.
Thursday 15th June. Year 4/5/6 Sports Day a.m.
Year 2/3 Sports Day p.m. (Garrison Track)
Friday 16th June. Den Day. Save the Children.
Thursday 22nd June. F & Year 1 Sports Day a.m. Abbey Field Site. Followed by picnic lunch
Friday 30th June - PTA Summer Fair
Thursday 20th July - Last day of the Summer Term
Wednesday 6th September - First day of Autumn Term
PLEASE LOOK ON THE CALENDAR OF THE SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR OTHER DATES/EVENTS THIS TERM.

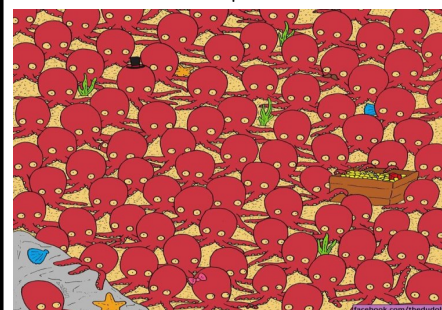
Orienteering

Our intrepid Year 5 went off to Castle Park this week to take part in an orienteering festival. The children were given maps and had 30 minutes to find as many 'dibbers' as they could. I'm not sure how many dibbers the children found but we didn't lose any children, so they must have done something right!



Hidden Picture Challenge

A slightly different challenge for the next few weeks. Can you find the fish hidden amongst the octopus.



As always, Answers on Miss Salmon's door if you are at Abbey site and on Mr Green's door if you are at Town site.

The winning entry each week from each phase will get to choose a free book or writing prize.

And Finally,

A very sad time for Mrs Bullivant yesterday afternoon as she went to a meeting of SENCos from Colchester. Mrs Bullivant had been promised a sumptuous lunch awaiting her arrival and so had starved herself in anticipation during the morning. Sadly, when she arrived all that was waiting for her was a raisin cookie which was a little upsetting! Not for us of course, we all had a very nice lunch yesterday, some of the children had second helpings!

Have a good Half Term Simon Billings

If your child has a phone or tablet - do you know what they're doing online - have you checked?

How to explain the horror of terrorism to your children



As parents, there is a constant temptation to shield our children from bad news. But sometimes, and in particular with acts of terrorism, bad news is unavoidable - it's on television, it's on social media, and it's on our minds.

Experts from the Royal College of Psychiatrists have advised that parents should be honest with their children about the Manchester terror attack. "We would not advise hiding your child from what may be on the news or social media," said Dr Bernadka Dubicka, chairwoman-elect of RCP's child and adolescent psychiatry faculty. "They will inevitably learn about it from their friends, so it's best to be honest with them about what has happened.

Yet how exactly do you go about explaining to a young child that 22 people have been murdered at a concert?

Gemma Allen, a senior bereavement counsellor at Winston's Wish, Britain's leading charity for bereaved children, offers the following tips for talking to children about terrorist attacks.

Language matters

For children of all ages, the most important thing is to reassure them that they are safe. Don't get into the political context with primary-aged children. That may come up in conversation with older children, but the importance at any age is offering the reassurance that they are safe.

For pre-school children, use concrete language: don't say "This person went to sleep" or "We've lost that person" - because that could instil fear or anxiety in that child about going to sleep. And what does lost mean? They're lost at the shops? Be accurate and mindful of the impact of your language.

Age-appropriate conversations

For pre-school, think about how much exposure they've had. Maybe they've overheard the news, so the conversation could be quite brief: acknowledge what has happened, and say that lots of people have died as a result of a really bad incident. You can say that we don't know why this has happened.

As the parent or teacher or carer, the most important part is to offer reassurance: this is very unusual, there are lots of safety checks in place to protect us.

Use age-appropriate language, and be aware of what your child understands: do they really know what "died" means? It's usually not until the age of 5 or 6 that children understand that death is permanent.

With primary school, the majority will understand what "dead" means. So it may be that you can add details - you may be able to sit down and watch the 6 o'clock news together.

The perpetrators

You should talk about a bad action or behaviour - not bad people. Ms Allen explains: "A lot of our work is with families bereaved through murder.

With children, you must be careful about the language: people aren't bad - it's something bad that they've done - this helps prevent anxiety in children, and fears that 'bad people' are coming to get them."

Social media awareness

Secondary school aged children will have come across news about the attacks already on social media. Remind them that some of the things they have read there may be incorrect. Have a conversation with your child about what they think has happened.

Shield them

From certain politicians' dangerous reactions - for example, Jeb Bush saying terrorists in Paris were carrying out "an organised attempt to destroy Western civilisation," these men were granted more power than they have.

This hysteria is exactly what the people carrying out these acts want. And it is exactly this sort of hysteria that we, as parents, need to protect our children from.

Instead, this is the sentiment we need to spread: that the majority of the world wants peace.

As Fred 'Mr' Rogers, the American children's television host and one of my childhood heroes, was fond of saying: "Whenever there is a catastrophe, always look for the helpers - because if you look for the helpers, then you'll know there's hope."