

St Mary & St John CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Rebekah Stott



Friday 28th February 2025

Dear St Mary & St John Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your families had a lovely half term. It has been lovely to welcome children back to school this week in the sunshine (and a little rain!).

A new value: COURAGE

The new term brings with it a new value. In our Monday Celebration Assembly, we introduced **COURAGE**. We talked about what courage is and decided that Nelson Mandela was very wise when he described courage as 'not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.' He said that brave people are not those who don't feel afraid, but those face their fears to overcome them. We had fun trying to guess what different phobias are – do you know what 'arachibutyrophobia' is the fear of?!



Curriculum Maps & Knowledge Organisers

Curriculum Maps and Knowledge Organisers. There are some big questions being explored over the coming term – YR: What does it mean to be alive? Y1: How can we prevent fire? Y2 & Y3: Can one person make a difference? Y4: How can humankind be more successful in the future? Y5: Do all crimes deserve a punishment? Y6: What are the consequences of human endeavour? These are some big questions! We hope you enjoy hearing about the children's learning as you talk with them at home.

Knowledge Organiser – How can we prevent fire?

Class Reader
Vlad and the Great Fire of London
Kate and Sam Cunningham
It's 1666 and Vlad the Rat and his friend Sooty the cat, love eating and taking their way around London. But one night in Pudding Lane they are caught up in a fire that threatens to destroy them, along with most of the City of London. Vlad's brave actions help the fire to be put out, but how can it be prevented from happening again?

Key vocabulary

Sustainable	Working and living in a way that ensures there will still be natural resources (e.g. food, water, minerals) left for future generations.
Climate change	A long-term change in the Earth's climate that affects average temperatures and weather patterns.
Renewable	A resource that is replaced naturally and so can be used repeatedly, e.g. wind, water, wood.
Pollution	The presence of harmful things in the environment.
Biodegradable	An object that is broken down by bacteria or other living organisms.
Carbon footprint	A measure of the amount of carbon dioxide that is released into the atmosphere as a result from the activities of a person.
Waste	Unwanted or unusable materials or objects that are thrown away.

Knowledge Organiser – Do all crimes deserve a punishment?

Why are we learning about crime and punishment?
We are studying this topic because it helps us to understand how society has changed over the last 3000 years. What to do to punish and also to prevent crime has always been a difficult problem to solve. By having a clear idea as to what has been tried and tested in the past, we will develop an informed opinion on this important issue facing society. You will notice that each period in history has its own problems. Some experiments work for a short time and are then replaced, while others last much longer. We will also discuss what new punishments the future might bring in the hope of reducing crime.

Key questions

- What is crime?
- Why do we punish?
- How has punishment changed over time?
- What are the different types of punishment?
- What are the aims of punishment?
- What are the consequences of punishment?

Timeline of Punishment:

- 1000: Fines, Pillory, Ducking stool, Stocks
- 1200: Whipping, Branding
- 1500: Hanging for more offences, The Bloody Code
- 1700: Transportation
- 1800: Penitentiary houses in London
- 1900: Death penalty abolished in UK
- 2020: Prison

Most crimes were non-violent e.g. theft and burglary.

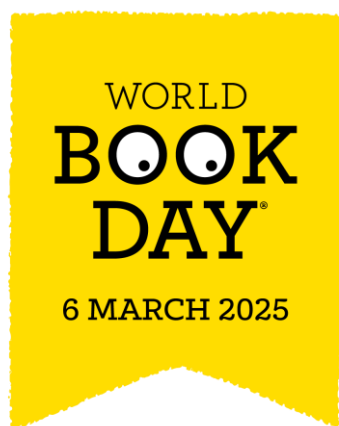
The maps and organisers detail key vocabulary that the children will learn as part of their new topics. Sharing them with you will hopefully encourage conversation at home about what your child is learning.

What are we learning about this term?

Alongside the enquiry question, we continue to explore topics with a specifically chosen rich text, from a wide range of diverse authors. These are the main texts for Term 4:

Reception The Story of Life	Year 1 Vlad and the Great Fire of London	Year 2 The Bear Under the Stairs	Year 3 One Plastic Bag	Year 4 Outlaw	Year 5 High Rise Mystery	Year 6 The Arrival
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World Book Day – Thursday 6th March



Next Thursday, alongside plenty of fun activities in school, the children are invited to come to school dressed up for World Book Day. However, this doesn't have to be as their favourite book character!

This year's theme is **Read Your Way**, so we would like to invite children to **Dress Their Way**. Here are some options:

- Wear or carry something that represents a book or genre they would like to read.
- Wear or carry something that represents books they enjoy/are currently reading.
- Wear outfit/comfy clothes you like to wear whilst reading.
- Come in/bring in a plain T-Shirt where other staff and children can write books they would recommend on! (This is my personal favourite!)

Secondly, we would like to bring back a good old **'Book Swap'**. So, on the morning of World Book Day, your child can bring in some books from home they would like to donate/swap. Then, at drop-off, some tables will be out on the KS2 playground for families to peruse and 'swap' their books. If you do not have books to swap, we imagine there will be plenty of additional donations made so you can still come and browse/take a book from the tables.

Key Stage 2 Playground

Work to develop the Key Stage 2 playground continues. A HUGE thank you to one of our parents who built 2 workbenches for us during the half term. They are beautiful and will be thoroughly enjoyed by the older children as a new mud kitchen / laboratory!

We LOVE the logo!!



SAT 22 MARCH, 7.30PM
PARENTHOOD
A CABARET OF CHAOS
ST MARY & ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

An evening of rude and rowdy entertainment celebrating and commiserating the utterly baffling experience of parenting.

Featuring scenes, songs and poems from a motley assortment of professional actors and singers. Grab your ticket now before all the babysitters get booked.

In aid of Helen and Douglas House and SSMJ School

Tickets: £15
www.chippingnortontheatre.com/events/parenthood
Enquiries: parenthoodthecabaret@gmail.com

STRICTLY NO CHILDREN ALLOWED!

St Mary and St John
Church of England Primary School
'Let all that you do be done in love'
1 Corinthians 16:14

Helen & Douglas House
your local children's hospice

Parenthood

On March 22nd a group of professional actors and musicians (many of whom will be familiar to you as they are from the school community) will be taking over the school hall to perform a cabaret all about the wild ride that it is being a parent. All ticket proceeds will be split between SSMJ and Helen and Douglas House. Do come along to support!

Tickets cost £15 and can be purchased from:

www.chippingnortontheatre.com/events/parenthood

Enquiries:

parenthoodthecabaret@gmail.com

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 6th March: World Book Day - Come as a favourite book character, or 'Dress Your Way'.

Monday 17th & Wednesday 19th March: Parents' Evening – Information about sign up has been sent via ParentPay.

Friday 21st March: Red Nose Day - Come dressed in red for a £1 donation, noses will be available at the office for £2.

Have a lovely weekend. 😊 With best wishes,

Bea Stiff

and the St Mary & St John Team

Headteacher



Let all that you do be done in love...

1 Corinthians 16:14



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a 'Forwarded many times' label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp/2025>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.02.2024

Mindful March: Wellbeing Segment

For more information, please visit <https://actionforhappiness.org/calendar> where you can click on each day for more activities and ideas!

Mindful March 2025

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness	2 Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world	3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive	4 Notice how you speak to yourself and choose to use kind words	5 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them	6 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down	7 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day
8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food	9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others	10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face	11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee	12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying	13 Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today	14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do
15 Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly	16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity	17 Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant	18 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels	19 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today	20 Focus on what makes you and others happy today	21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else
22 Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult	23 Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them	24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do	25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted	26 Choose to spend less time looking at screens today	27 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are	28 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible
29 Choose a different route today and see what you notice	30 Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling	31 Discover the joy in the simple things of life				

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

2024					2025						
August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
1 Th	1 Su	1 Tu	1 Fr	1 Su	1 We New Year's Day	1 Sa	1 Sa	1 Tu	1 Th	1 Su	1 Tu
2 Fr	2 Mo INSET	2 We	2 Sa	2 Mo	2 Th	2 Su	2 Su	2 We	2 Fr Y5 Learning Exhibition	2 Mo INSET	2 We
3 Sa	3 Tu INSET	3 Th Y6 Steam Y5 I.F.	3 Su	3 Tu	3 Fr	3 Mo	3 Mo	3 Th	3 Sa	3 Tu Term 6 starts	3 Th
4 Su	4 We Term 1 Starts	4 Fr INSET	4 Mo Term 2 starts Assessment week	4 We	4 Sa	4 Tu	4 Tu	4 Fr Term 4 Ends	4 Su	4 We	4 Fr
5 Mo	5 Th	5 Sa	5 Tu	5 Th	5 Su	5 We	5 We	5 Sa	5 Mo Early May	5 Th	5 Sa
6 Tu	6 Fr	6 Su	6 We	6 Fr Y2 SA Panto	6 Mo INSET	6 Th	6 Th WORLD BOOK DAY	6 Su	6 Tu	6 Fr	6 Su
7 We	7 Sa	7 Mo	7 Th	7 Sa	7 Term 3 starts	7 Fr	7 F	7 Mo	7 We	7 Sa	7 Mo
8 Th	8 Su	8 Tu	8 Fr	8 Su	8 We	8 Sa	8 Sa	8 Tu	8 Th	8 Su	8 Tu
9 Fr	9 Mo	9 Mental Health Awareness day	9 Sa	9 Mo	9 Th	9 Su	9 Su	9 We	9 Fr	9 Mo	9 We
10 Sa	10 Tu	10 Y5 Viking Day	10 Su	10 Nat Dress rehearsal	10 Fr	10 Mo	10 Mo	10 Th	10 Sa	10 Tu	10 Th
11 Su	11 We	11 Fr	11 Mo	11 Panto YR Nativity	11 Sa	11 Tu	11 Tu	11 Fr	11 Su	11 We	11 Fr Y3 Learning exhibition
12 Mo	12 Th	12 Sa	12 Tu	12 Th Panto 1/2	12 Su	12 We	12 We	12 Sa	12 Mo Y6 SATS	12 Th	12 Sa
13 Tu	13 Fr	13 Su	13 We	13 Fr Church Nativity	13 Mo	13 Th	13 Th	13 Su	13 Tu	13 Fr Y1 Sharing Assembly	13 Su
14 We	14 Sa	14 Mo Parent consulta	14 Th	14 Sa	14 Tu	14 Fr Term 3 ends	14 Fr Y2 Sharing Assembly	14 Mo	14 We	14 Sa	14 Mo
15 Th	15 Su	15 Tu	15 Fr	15 Su	15 We	15 Sa	15 Sa	15 Tu	15 Th Y5 Hill End Residential	15 Su	15 Tu
16 Fr	16 Mo	16 We Parent consultation	16 Sa	16 Mo	16 Th	16 Su	16 Su	16 We	16 Fr Y4 Learning Exhibition	16 Mo	16 We
17 Sa	17 Tu	17 Th	17 Su	17 Tu	17 Y6 Learning Exhibition	17 Mo	17 Mo Parent Consults	17 Th	17 Sa	17 Tu	17 Th
18 Su	18 We	18 Fr Y4 Learning Exhibition	18 Mo	18 We	18 Sa	18 Tu	18 Tu	18 Fr Good Friday	18 Su	18 We	18 Fr
19 Mo	19 Th	19 Sa	19 Tu	19 Th	19 Su	19 We	19 We Parent Consults	19 Sa	19 Su Y6 WOODLANDS	19 Th	19 Sa
20 Tu	20 Fr Y6 Learning Exhibition	20 Su	20 We	20 Fr Term 2 ends	20 Mo	20 Th	20 Th	20 Su	20 Tu	20 Fr	20 Su
21 We	21 Sa	21 Mo Assessment	21 Th	21 Sa	21 Tu	21 Fr	21 Fr RED NOSE DAY	21 Mo Easter Monday	21 We	21 Sa	21 Mo Y6 Leavers Assembly
22 Th	22 Su	22 Tu Y5 Bikeability	22 Fr Y3 Learning Exhibition	22 Su	22 We	22 Sa	22 Sa PARENTHOOD	22 Tu Term 5 Starts	22 Th	22 Su	22 Tu Term 6 ends
23 Fr	23 Mo	23 We Individual photos	23 Sa	23 Mo	23 Th	23 Su	23 Su	23 We	23 Fr Term 5 Ends	23 Mo	23 We
24 Sa	24 Tu	24 Th	24 Su	24 Tu	24 Y1 Sharing Assembly	24 Mo	24 Mo	24 Th	24 Sa	24 Tu	24 Th
25 Su	25 We	25 Fr Term 1 ends	25 Mo	25 Christmas Day	25 Sa	25 Tu Assessment Week	25 Tu	25 Fr	25 Su	25 We	25 Fr
26 Mo August Bk Hol	26 Y3 Stone Age Day	26 Sa	26 Tu	26 Boxing Day	26 Su	26 We	26 We Y3 Learning Exhibition	26 Sa	26 Mo Spring Bk Hol	26 Th	26 Sa
27 Tu	27 Fr	27 Su	27 We	27 Fr	27 Mo	27 Th	27 Th	27 Su	27 Tu	27 Fr Y2 Sharing Assembly	27 Su
28 We	28 Sa	28 Mo	28 Th	28 Sa	28 Tu	28 Fr	28 Fr	28 Mo	28 We	28 Sa	28 Mo
29 Th	29 Su	29 Tu	29 Fr	29 Su	29 We		29 Sa	29 Tu	29 Th	29 Su	29 Tu
30 Fr	30 Mo	30 We	30 Sa	30 Mo	30 Th		30 Su	30 We	30 Fr	30 Mo	30 We
31 Sa		31 Th		31 Tu	31 Fr Y5 Learning Exhibition		31 Mo		31 Sa		31 Th



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Calendar 24-25