

Summer Newsletter

This newsletter keeps you up to date with information and advice from the school and local community during the Coronavirus lockdown. If you have any questions or comments, please email us at:

parents@st-pauls.towerhamlets.sch.uk

St Paul's  **YouTube**

search for: st paul's primary whitechapel youtube

Latest news on the school reopening

Thank you all for your patience in these difficult times. It has been an especially difficult time for schools and, unfortunately, we are still waiting for the government's scientific guidance to be released to explain why it is safe to return to school.

We do expect St Paul's School to re-open from June 1st for vulnerable children and families with critical workers.

If you believe that you are entitled to a place, please contact the school on our parents' email address:

parents@st-pauls.towerhamlets.sch.uk

We have been very clear that once we can mitigate against the risk that this virus poses, schools will reopen for more children, probably beginning with Year 6 on Monday 8th June.

Mr. Rubin and I do not believe there is enough information to make that decision yet, so I will write to you again soon to provide further news and, hopefully, a definitive decision.

We want our staff to take a well-deserved break over the half term. Mr. Foster (see page 2) and the cleaning team will be in during the half term break to make sure that the school is ready to reopen.

We will continue to monitor emails but other than our Challenges there will be no Purple Mash work set until 1st June.

Have a good weekend and half term break, be kind, be helpful and keep safe.

Best wishes,
Mr Bennett

Eid Mubarek!

We extend our heartiest best wishes to all those celebrating Eid this weekend. The holy month of Ramadan has coincided with long days and a hot, dry period of weather. Eid-al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan and is a day on which Muslims must not fast.

Despite the demands of the Coronavirus lockdown, we hope that our Muslim families are able to have a peaceful and joyous Eid celebration with their loved ones.



In this edition of the Newsletter

Page 2: Meet our new Caretaker

Page 2: Highly recommended resources

Page 3: A message from Place2Be

Page 4: Mental Health Awareness Competition

Page 4: St Paul's' YouTube channel

Page 5: Make your own Mini-Book

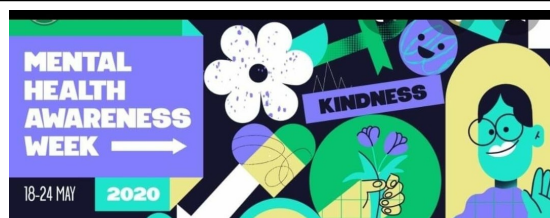
Page 6: Top Tips for Reading at home

Page 7: Free Yoga Classes

Page 8: Term dates and Final Thought

Thank you so much to Fieldfisher LLP who have provided a very generous donation towards the school's Place2be provision. Fieldfisher are acutely aware of the importance of this essential service for our children and the school community.

fieldfisher

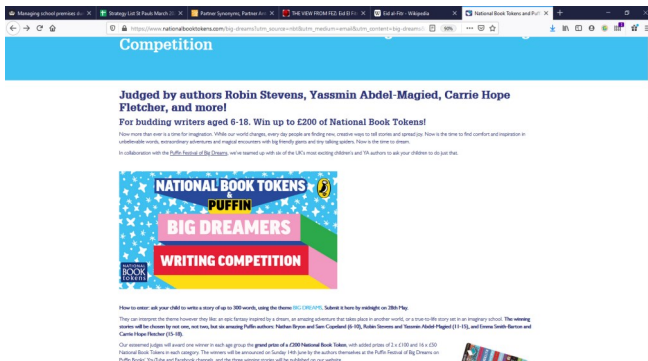
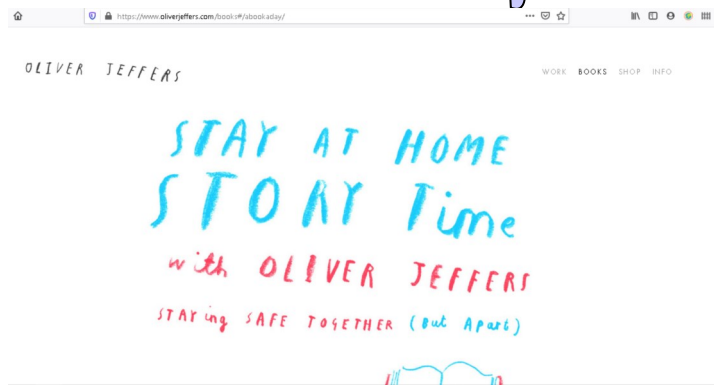


More 'highly recommended' online resources to try at home

Oliver Jeffers

Fantastic children's book author, Oliver Jeffers, author of the 'The Day the Crayons Quit' reads from his books.

www.oliverjeffers.com/books#/abookaday/



National Book Tokens Competition

Write a story of up to 300 words on the subject of Big Dreams. Closing date 28th May.

More information here:

<https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/big-dreams>

Crossteach Assemblies

Crossteach provide a series of video assemblies. The first can be found at this link:

Assembly Video 1 - "Quiet, be still."

Theme: Worry and fear

<https://vimeo.com/410221673>

Password: Mark4:39

We would be interested to have your feedback on this



Meet our new Caretaker

We are very pleased to welcome our new Caretaker, Andy Foster, to the St Paul's staff team.

It is some time since we had someone to look after the building and grounds following Kathy Neil's retirement last year.

Andy has a background in engineering and in property maintenance. He is already making a big difference to the school and will soon have everything looking ship-shape!



More generous gifts from our Reading Partners

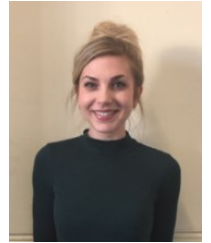
Every week they would give up their lunchtime to come into school and read with their partner, but our Reading Partners have not been able to come into school since early March due to the coronavirus. Determined to continue to promote children's reading skills, our partners from the Fieldfisher law firm each purchased a book for their partner child. These were delivered to the school and picked up last week.

fieldfisher





A message from Place2Be.....
Hello again children of St Paul's from Place2Be!



We always start with our feelings check-in....and this time, let's think about our feelings today as a noise. You might be feeling happy and cheerful, like the birds singing in the trees in the morning! Maybe you feel like a big RUMBLE of loud thunder, louder than anything around you. You might feel you're doing okay...like the steady beat of a drum. You might feel **FULL** of energy, like the sound of the school play-ground at lunch time! Or you might feel *calm*, like the gentle sound of waves at the beach. Like we hear all different sounds and noises throughout the day - we also feel lots of different feelings each day. As we say each week, it's really good to let others know how you're feeling. Maybe you could ask someone else how they're feeling too. Don't forget - an orchestra or music band always has LOTS of different noises together...that's what makes them so unique - just like you!



We're quite like one big orchestra in our school - everyone unique, but forming part of a special group. We may not be able to visit or see everyone from our special group at the moment - and that might make us sad at times. We can still think about them and what they mean to us though, and here's an activity to help you feel connected to your friends even though you may not be able to see them.

Kind thoughts and wishes!

Can you think of five people you would want to send a 'kind thought' to? What would you say? Would you say it in a big voice, or a quiet voice? Would you want to make them laugh, or maybe you would want to give them a compliment?!

If you want to - you can write these kind wishes down! Or you can just keep them in your mind to think about them when you feel like you miss them.

Maybe someone out there is thinking of you when they make *their* kind wish as well! What would your friend say to you that would make you laugh and smile right now?



Dear Parents/Carers,
Place2Be are supporting 'Mental Health Awareness Week' (18th-24th May), organised by the Mental Health Foundation. Here's a link to their online resources which may be helpful in supporting everyone's mental health during this time: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus>



Mental Health Awareness Week

Hello!

Place2Be and St Paul's are supporting 'Mental Health Awareness Week', taking place this week (organised by the Mental Health Foundation).

The week aims to raise awareness of good mental health for all. Kindness and mental health are deeply connected. At this difficult time, we want to celebrate the many examples of exceptional kindness we are seeing, as people go above and beyond to make a positive difference for the members of their school community.

We are setting the children of St Paul's a poster activity to help us think about kind acts we have seen.

Can you design a poster - on paper, on Purple Mash, or in any way you can - to say 'thank you' to someone who has shown YOU exceptional kindness recently?

Can you tell us:

WHO you would like to thank?

WHAT kind act they have shown you?

HOW this made you feel?

You can send in photos of your posters to the school Twitter page, or design it on Purple Mash for your teachers to see, by Monday 1st June.

GOOD LUCK!

Carly



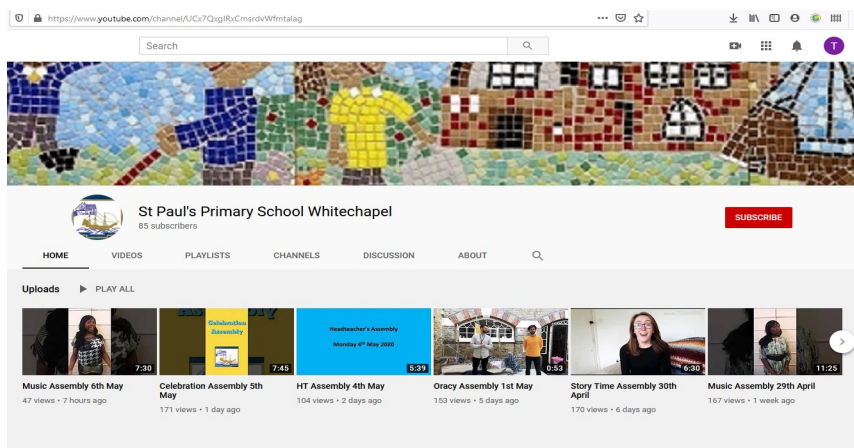
What's on the St Paul's School Channel on YouTube

Our YouTube Channel is full of content and being added to each day. Take a look at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx7QxgIRxCmsrdvWfntalag>

Also, why not check out St John's', our sister school's channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVsLkOc_vyS1IONuHmcEFZw



Each **Monday** during the term we have our Headteacher's assembly. This term the theme is stories from the major world religions.

On **Tuesdays** we have our Celebration Assemblies, where teachers chose the best work from children over the past week.

Mr Daggert and Mrs Bahi (from St John's) lead our **Wednesday** Singing Assemblies.

There is usually a story on **Thursday** read by a classteacher or by Laura our Librarian.

And something different on a **Friday**, such as an Oracy Assembly, a message from the Archbishop of Canterbury or, this week, Jokes and Riddles.

Make your own mini-book



For one of your offline tasks this week, I would like you to create a mini book. In the British library, they have over 600 of these toy sized books and during lockdown, they want to see what children like you can create! Authors like Jacqueline Wilson and Alex Scheffler have also made their own tiny books!

First, you will need to choose one of your favourite books! Do you have more than one favourite book? Why not create a few mini books?

Next, you will need to find some materials. Start looking around your home for some cardboard and paper. These could come from a cereal box, an envelope or even a newspaper! Ask your adults for some safety scissors and their help in cutting the cardboard and paper.



You will also need some string or glue to hold your book together!

If you do not have glue at home, don't worry. You can make your own with flour and water! You will need 65g of flour and 80 millilitres of water. Mix these together carefully with a spoon until it is all gloopy and glue-like! Keep it in a jar for more lockdown craft activities.

Once you have your paper, cardboard and glue or string, you can get started!

Cut a strip of cardboard about 3.5 centimetres wide and 15 centimetres long.

You then need to fold the cardboard to create a spine. You can do a double fold like the one in the picture, or

just fold it flat. Once you are happy with the length of your book, cut the cardboard carefully.

Lay your cardboard cover flat and decorate your cover! You can use anything for this. Be creative!

Keep your cover flat and use this to measure how long your paper pages will be! You don't need very many, but it is up to you. Fold your pages like



you folded your cover so that they fit together. Do not glue in your pages yet. Drawing and writing on them will be much easier when they are flat. Number your pages so that you don't get them mixed up before gluing!

On your pages, you can draw pictures to summarise the story (like in the picture), or if you have a very pointy pencil, you might be able to write some of the story!

When you have finished decorating your pages, then glue in your pages or use your string to keep the pages together against the spine.

You should now have your own mini book!

Ask your adults to tweet photos of your mini book, or please email them to school! We would love to create a St Paul's Mini Library when we return to school and show the British Library!

Have a wonderful week,



7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

- 1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)**



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

- 2 Ask your child lots of questions**



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

- 3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read**



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

- 4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read**



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

- 5 Ask your child to write about what they have read**



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

- 6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family**



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

- 7 Maintain the motivation to read**



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

Education Endowment Foundation (2018)

Preparing for Literacy: Improving Communication, Language and Literacy in the Early Years. Education Endowment Foundation: London.

Available online: eef.org.uk/eef-literacy-early-years

Education Endowment Foundation (2019).

Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools. Education Endowment Foundation: London.

Available online: eef.org.uk/eef-literacy-ks3-ks4

Breadmore, H.L., Verdy, E.J., Cunningham, A.J., Keck, R.K.W., & Carroll, J.M. (2019).

Literacy Development: Evidence Review. Education Endowment Foundation: London.

Available online: educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/Literacy_Development_Evidence_Review.pdf



Education
Endowment
Foundation

FREE CLASS

BREATHING THROUGH COVID 19 & DEEP RELAXATION

Find your breath again through a series of exercises to keep your respiratory muscles strong and lungs healthy along with mindfulness and relaxation techniques to aid calm and recovery.

**THURSDAYS | 2-2.30PM | CLAIRE WHALLEY |
BOOK VIA EMAIL**

Aimed at those who are in recovery from Covid-19 and people suffering with asthma or anxiety.
Open to all.

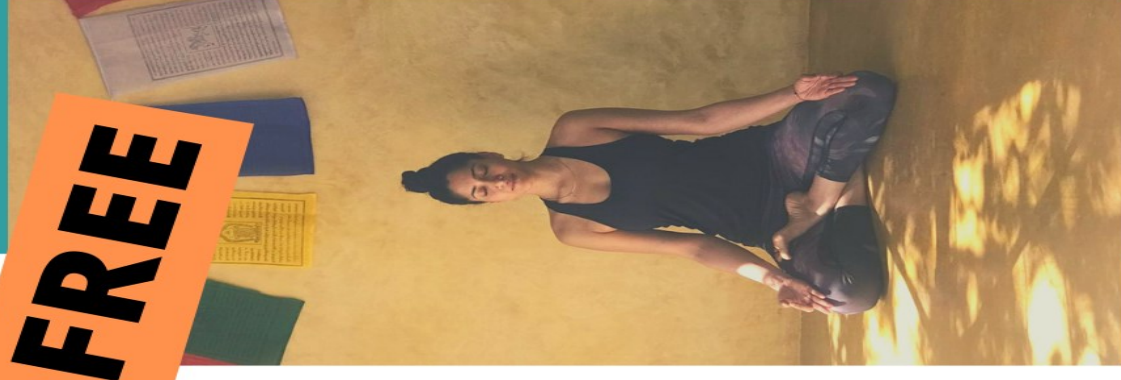
**INFO@THEYOGAFORLIFEPROJECT.CO.UK
WWW.THEYOGAFORLIFEPROJECT.CO.UK**

YOGA FOR ANXIETY

Looking for a gentle accessible yoga class tailored specifically to calm the body, settle the mind and ease anxiety?

**Thursdays
5.30-6.30pm
Himarsha Venkatsamy**

FREE



St Paul's Whitechapel CE Primary School Draft Term Dates and Holidays - 2019/ 2020

Summer Term 2020

Half Term Monday 25th to Friday 29th May
Second half of term Monday 1st June
Last Day of Term Friday 17th July

Eid Al-Fitr

*Sunday 24th May 2020**

Eid Al-Adha

*Friday 31st July 2020**

Thank you for proving food for our families



THE FELIX PROJECT
GOOD FOOD FOR GOOD CAUSES



Final Thought

“The most beautiful people I have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. Those people have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern...”

Beautiful people do not just happen.”

Ray Nichols

St John's & Paul's Whitechapel CE Primary Schools Term Dates and Holidays - 2020/ 2021

Autumn Term 2020 (73 days)

Staff Training

Tuesday 1st September

First Day of Term Wednesday 2nd September

Half Term Monday 26th – Friday 30th October

Staff Training

Monday 2nd November

Second half of term Tuesday 3rd November

Last Day of Term Friday 18th December

Christmas Day

Friday 25th December

Boxing Day

Saturday 26th December

Spring Term 2021 (59 days)

New Year's Day

Friday 1st January

Staff Training

Monday 4th January

First Day of Term Tuesday 5th January

Half Term Mon. 15th to Fri. 19th February

Second half of term Monday 22nd February

Last Day of Term Friday 26th March

Good Friday

Friday 2nd April

Easter Monday

Monday 5th April

Ramadan begins

*Tuesday 13th April 2021**

Summer Term 2021 (58 days)

First Day of Term Monday 12th April

Staff Training

Friday 30th April

May Day Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May

Half Term Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June

Second half of term Monday 7th June

Last Day of Term Friday 23rd July

Eid Al-Fitr

*Thursday 13th May 2021**

Eid Al-Adha

*Tuesday 20th July 2021**