

SJSC WEEKLY

Spring term Issue 9: 10th March 2023



Love of learning
Empowering knowledge
Critical thinking
Personal Growth

It has felt like a second winter at times this week – however the chilly weather does not stop exciting learning here at SJSC. Take a look below for a sneaky peak into the week.

This is the last week for the **Readathon** – a great way of raising money for books for children in hospital and our school will also get a percentage of the funds we raise to contribute to our own class book corners! Thank you all for your support.

Please take a look at the end of the newsletter for an update from the Friends of SJSC (PTFA), and exciting plans ahead including school disco, summer fair and mini marathon!

Have a great weekend

Alli Crank Joseph Bell

SJSC Diary

March

14th Class photos

17th Year 3 trip to Horniman

24th Climate March on Goose Green

27th – 31st Year 5 Trip to Wick Court Farm

28th Reception trip to Godstone Farm

31st Last day of Spring term

April

17th First day back at school



This week in **Reception**, we began the week with mystery jars of seeds... they were all sorts of interesting shapes and sizes so we tried to work out what might grow from them. We shared the story *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle, and acted out some of the scenes. Then (and this was the best bit!) we made our own books working in teams drawing and writing about our favourite parts in the story. We have been planting the first of our seeds, to find out what will help them grow. We are still collecting tin cans and plant posts so that we can all grow our own bean plants next week.



In English, **Year 1** have been preparing to write our own section of our books, 'Send for a superhero!'. We worked in pairs to sequence the key parts of our story and then we matched up time adverbials (e.g. first, lastly, next) to each section of our story sequence. Our Science lesson saw us beginning to identify and name some common flowers such as rose, buttercup and bluebells. We will be brilliant sources of knowledge when it comes to planting the pollinator's bed in the playground soon!



In **Year 2** we have been linking our learning in English, Art, Science and Maths to design our own amazing dragon machines, based upon our current book *"The Dragon Machine"*. Children designed their own machines, then added expanded noun phrases to describe our inventions. To link our Science topic of *Materials*, we discussed the appropriate materials to use such as rubber claw wheels, waterproof flexible plastic wings and a metal sturdy, mechanical engine. Finally, as we've been exploring 2D and 3D shapes in maths, we discussed some of these and highlighted them on our inventions.

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In Science, in **Year 3** this week, we did an experiment to see if we could prove that the stems of plants transport water. However, first, we had a good look at some sticks of celery to understand the structure of a stem. We snapped it and pulled it apart. We discovered the outer edges were tough and stringy to support and protect the plant and the inner parts soft and juicy. We then all had a nibble as part of our Jigsaw discussion about healthy eating and staying healthy. Did you know that celery has less than a gram of natural sugar?



In **Year 4** in PSHE, we have been focusing on the topic, 'Healthy Me'. Together, we have been learning how to build healthy relationships by looking at scenarios and offering advice to help resolve situations. This week, we discussed possible solutions if pressured by friends and spent time listening to each other's advice, learning and reflecting as a team.



In **Year 5**, our maths task was to measure accurately and compare measurements. Is anyone taller than Miss Stewart?



This week in **Year 6** we had a visit from The Nest. We spoke about or transition to secondary school, how change can make us feel, and found tools we can use when we feel stressed in order to help ourselves overcome uncomfortable feelings.

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Music this week...



The music room has seen a wealth of exciting activities over the last two days. **KS1** continued to listen to the music from *The Carnival of the Animals*. **Year 3** are progressing with their Ukulele skills and even though their fingers hurt, learning new cords was worth it. **Year 4** are building confidence at following music when they play recorders and can establish the difference of note durations. **Year 5** turned their attention to Holst's movement, *Jupiter; Bringer of Jollity* from his orchestral piece *The Planets*. They started to write their own lyrics for the famous tune from this movement which accompanies the hymn, *I Vow To Thee My Country* (and also the *World in Union Song* used during the Rugby World Cup). **Year 6** were continuing to listen to the music of Steve Reich, writing their own rhythmic patterns to clap over a pulse of 6 beats in a bar. Phew!

Three children in year 2 wrote and performed their own lyrics to a beat boxing backing with a sung melody. Well done to Amelia and Zara (year 5) for their fantastic performance of one of the *Matilda* songs during assembly and to Beau (year 2) for sharing his drumming performance during a session with Rock School.

News from the Art Studio...Mother's Day Portrait Competition



Pop along to **Ed**, 41 North Cross Rd, SE22 9ET, www.rigbyandmac.com/ed, to see some of Year 1's amazing portraits of special women in their lives.

We drew faces using simple proportion, and collage to create wonderful bright portraits.

The children will be bringing their portraits home next week.

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Stars of the Week

Stars are celebrated because they have demonstrated the school values, or gone above and beyond. Well done to all our stars this week ...



SJSC Values: Resilience Kindness Community **Aspiration** Creativity
Flourishing in the love of God, love of life, love of learning

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The PTFA has a new name...and a new website!

We are now called **The Friends of SJSC**, but we are the same parents and supporters working hard to build our school community and organise fundraisers to support our school. We have created a website to share what we've done, what we're planning, and where we need help. So, make yourself a cuppa and have a read:

<https://friendsofsjc.squarespace.com>

Save the date...



The friends of SJSC are working hard behind the scenes to host some fun events for our school community. Please save these dates and look out for further details closer to the time:

School disco - Wednesday 24th May

Summer Fair - Saturday 17th June

As always these events rely on volunteers. We need parents/carers to help out at the disco, as well as to help organise a fair stall or just be an extra pair of hands on the day. If you are interested please get in touch with your class rep or email us at:

friendsofsjc@gmail.com

Welcome friends of St John's & St Clement's



We have 20 places for SJSC students to run the TCS Mini London Marathon on Saturday 22 April, the day before the 2023 TCS London Marathon.

Runners will get to experience the thrill of crossing the world-famous finish line on The Mall, before receiving their participation medal. And each student who takes part will raise £10 for SJSC which will be used to buy PE or IT equipment for the school.

There are two different routes, both are in Westminster and cover part of the iconic London Marathon course:

- 2.6km for pupils in Years 5 and 6 (taking place between 10:00 and 11:00)
- 1 mile for Years 1 to 4 (taking place between 11:00 and 14:00)

To register your child for this event please email: friendsofsjc@gmail.com with their name and class by **9pm on Friday 17th March.**

Names will be pulled out of a hat by Mr Evans and you will be notified if your child has been picked to run.