



Theme for next week: Healthy Me

Head's Message

Dear Parents,

The first half of this term has come to an end. Looking back, I must commend all of our pupils for the way in which they have adapted to remote learning and the resilience they have shown. Looking forward, I hope that we will see a return to school around 8 March, although we will have to wait a little longer for these plans to be confirmed by the government. This past week, I have had many conversations with parents to discuss the option of their child remaining at St Aubyn's in Year 7. During these discussions, it was pleasing to hear how satisfied they were with our remote learning programme. They were very complimentary about the ways in which the teachers engaged the pupils in their learning, and how the School had up its game regarding the use of the technology available to us.

On the topic of remote learning, if we had to take a walk down memory lane to the days of initial teacher training, lessons and the preparation of resources seemed to take forever. Understanding different pedagogical approaches, developing subject knowledge and learning how to convey these concepts to pupils took a significant amount of time. As with any profession, teaching becomes easier over time as our knowledge of the curriculum becomes deeper, we teach in different year groups and we find different ways to help our pupils understand new concepts. Instead of planning complete new lessons, we can tweak the bank of tasks in our files and adapt our methods to the needs of the pupils we are teaching.

Adapting our methods to remote teaching means that we have, for this current period of time, returned to those days of time-consuming planning. Everything is taking longer as our teachers discover what works best remotely when trying to transfer skills and knowledge live but via a technical medium. Resources have to be made from scratch to fit in with the new platforms we are using for teaching, and then there is the added anxiety caused by poor connectivity or technical issues which are beyond our control. This is a huge learning curve for all of us; the teachers, the pupils, parents and school leaders. Few of us are experts in this field and this added anxiety around using technology correctly means we are all especially tired. I do worry that another outcome of this pandemic may be that we lose good teachers from the profession too early. Teachers may "burn out" because of the demands placed on them by remote teaching.

For this reason, I particularly appreciated the kind words from the parents I spoke to. I am also desperate to get the children back into school and back to face to face teaching. I will be watching the announcement next Sunday with great interest, and I have no doubt you will be doing the same.

During the half term break, I encourage you all to switch off your computers as well as your children's and limit screen time. Maintain a structure to your day but replace remote learning with plenty of exercise and fresh air.

Keep well and best wishes,

Leonard Blom

The greatest wealth is health.

-Virgil-

We are delighted to launch a series of Eco-Action challenges for children to complete at home. This week we are setting an Art and Design challenge:



Nursery pupils: use recycled materials to create a sculpture of your favourite animal.

Pre Prep pupils: use recycled materials to create a mural of your favourite animal.

Middle and Senior School pupils: draw or paint your favourite animal in different styles—pop art, art deco, surrealism etc.

Once you have completed your artwork, please upload a photo of it here, including your first name and class. <https://padlet.com/mathsstaubyns/la5fpcps4zi6p76v>



Year 3 have been studying rocks and soils. Lachelle in 3JA has collected worms from her garden to create a mini compost bin. Great work, Lachelle!



This week, Reception have been looking at Chinese New Year. Here is Alba in RKO with her colourful Chinese Dragon.

In maths, Reception have been looking at subtraction word problems. Here is Aida in RSL working out some problems with her subtraction machine!



In RE, Year 2 have been studying prayer in Islam. The children designed their own prayer mat and labelled parts of a mosque. Manelle in 2TH shared this very special photo. She is performing her daily prayers, standing on her very own prayer mat.



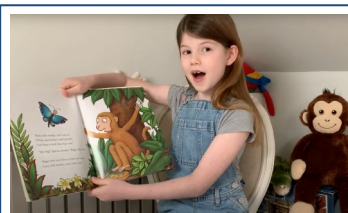
The children in Year 1 have been learning about their Senses. This week, they enjoyed tasting new foods and describing them. It was interesting to find out that everyone's tastes are not the same as there were some varying opinions about foods such as limes and cocoa powder.

Congratulations to everyone who has taken part in the St Aubyn's 'Road to Tokyo No-Screen Saturday Challenge'. After our first week, we have covered 250 miles and reached Paris. So far, Pre-Prep have covered 67 miles, Senior School pupils have covered 73 miles, and, out in front, pupils in Middle School have covered 110 miles. Here are Olivia (Year 7) and Ellen (1RK) taking part in the challenge. Please keep



having time away from your screens and keep sending your distances to Mr Bayntun.

(g.bayntun@staubyns.com). Next stop, Berlin!



This week, the Reading Ambassadors recorded themselves reading

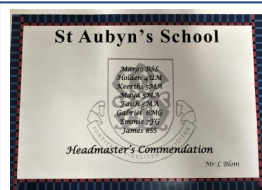
a book for our Nursery pupils. Lots of cuddly friends showed up and they all read brilliantly.



Year 4 have been challenged this half term to recreate famous artworks using



objects, people and pets from their own homes. As you can see, they have really risen to the challenge with some fantastic and imaginative recreations. Fantastic work, Year 4!



Many congratulations to these pupils who received a Headmaster's Commendation this week. Very well done!

Well done to James in 5AM for taking part in the 'Chance to Shine' YouTube session. Pupils were encouraged to join in with the session to help improve their cricket skills in readiness for the coming summer. Let's hope he didn't break anything!



Eknoor in RBW has immersed herself this week in the book that Reception have been reading. Here she is pretending to be the little old lady in the story 'The Gigantic Turnip'. She retells what happened in the story and how she called all of the animals to help. Then she made turnip stew!