

From the Headteacher

It's hard to believe the year we have had and yet our children have shown so much resilience and maturity.

For many of you, it has been such a long time since you have been able to come inside the school. There have been lots of changes since you were gone, such as our new library (below) and exercise equipment on the North playground.

We have learnt a lot from remote learning and want to ensure that the children are fully equipped should there ever be another cause for home learning, so we have heavily invested in computing devices across the school.

As the academic year draws to an end many of you will be planning your summer break. Please do not book holidays before 23rd July 2021 and ensure that you are ready to return for the start of term by 3rd September 2021, allowing 10 days quarantine where necessary. The children have already missed so much learning time, no leave will be authorised at this time.

BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE

Our vision is to create an inclusive community of aspirational learners, children, families and colleagues, working collaboratively and respectfully within a happy, nurturing environment where all flourish and achieve.

Jesus said, 'I have come that you may have life, life in all its fullness'.

1 John 10 vs10

The New Library

During the first lockdown, our new library furniture was delivered and the children were delighted to come back to discover the new atrium space.

The children go to the library once a week to choose a book to take home and we are constantly updating it with their favourite titles and authors.

With so much lost learning time, it is essential that our children learn a love of reading. Research shows that children who enjoy reading have significantly better life chances and more successful future careers.

Please encourage your children to read everyday, listen to them, talk to them about what they are reading and comment in their reading journals each day.





I can't wait to do another session.



I found the music calming

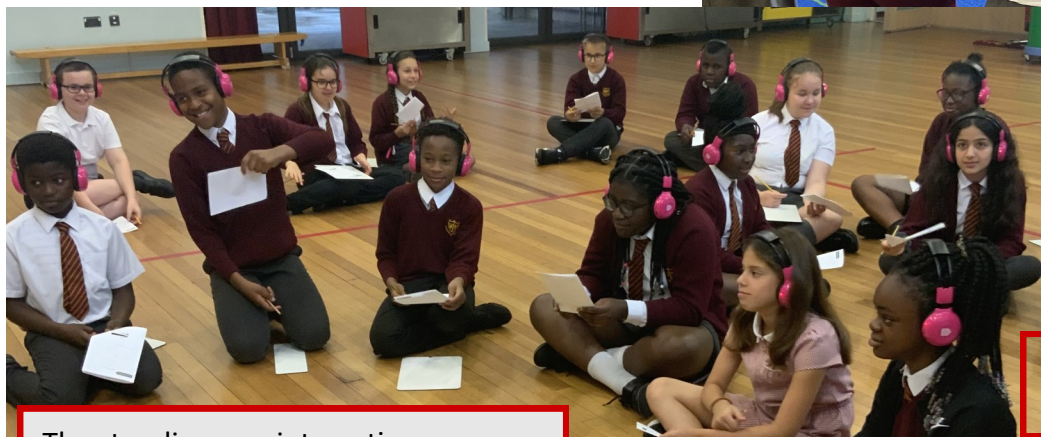


I preferred that type of Maths lesson.

I like the lesson because it was really creative



It was really fun trying something new.



The storyline was interesting.

Now Press Play

Sadly, there have been no organised excursions for 15 months and these were a vital part of our rich curriculum. Now Press Play, enables the children to be immersed in rich narrative and valuable learning experiences. All children from Rec to year 6 love the learning experiences.



IT Hub

The children are loving using our new IT Hub (left).



National Tutoring Programme

Lots of the pupils have benefitted from 15 hours online 1-1 tuition this term to close gaps in their learning since the Covid pandemic began. They have really enjoyed this style of learning.



Outdoor Equipment

With so much time stuck inside during lockdowns, children have missed daily exercise. We have had new equipment added to the playground to help children become more active in play!

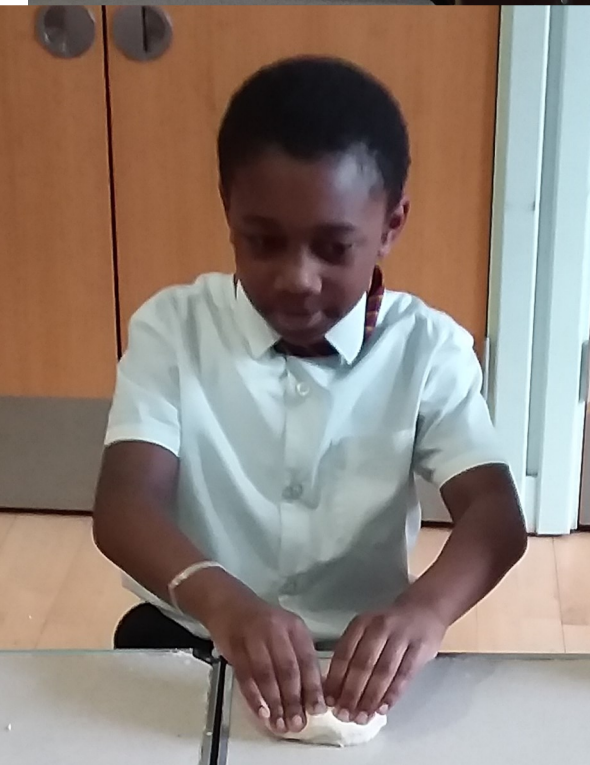
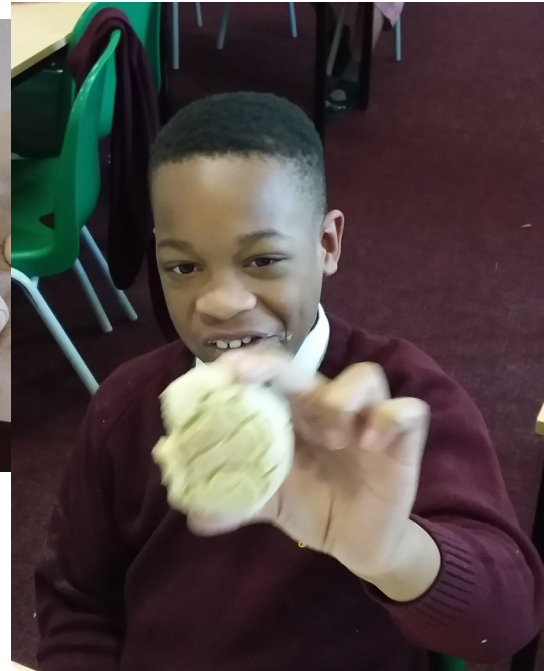




Design and Technology.

The year 4 children enjoyed planning, sculpting and decorating their Anglo Saxon clay pots.

The results were fantastic.



The Romans

The children in St David Class and St James Class studied the Romans . They make great connections in their learning across Design Technology, History and Literacy.

Our ambitious bakers planned, prepared and baked their rolls but the best bit was the tasting session at the end!

Science

This half term, St Francis Class are studying Habitats. We created our allotment by planting various plants (vegetables and flowers). This week - we looked at micro-habitats; and used our observational skills to record any mini-beast we identified in our allotment.



We asked the question, "Are mini-beasts suitable for our allotment?" This was a tricky question, with no right or wrong answer. Some children believed that mini-beasts should be part of our allotment as they can pollinate the flowers, collect the nectar, make honey for us (bees), and make our plants grow better. Also, they added that we have a responsibility to care for all God's creatures. Some children said that mini-beasts make the garden look better, more creative and beautiful (butterflies).

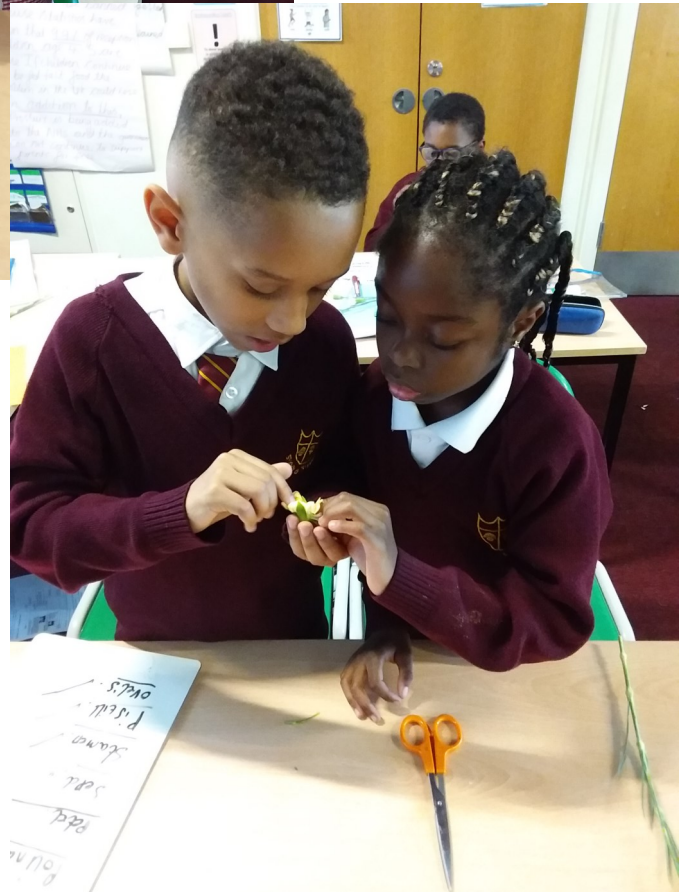
On the other hand, some children believed that mini-beasts would damage the plants by eating their leaves or roots or even damage the fruits. Also, they said that if the slugs' slime touches the plants, they will make the leaves horrible and disgusting.

We learnt that mini-beasts such as bumblebees, ladybirds and lacewings are good mini-beasts that can protect the plants so we decided to create mini-habitats (bug-hotels) to welcome those good mini-beasts.



Science

St David and St James Class have been looking at plants and the function of their parts. They carefully observed and dissected the flowers to name parts from their diagrams. They found seeds and talked about dispersal and germination.





Science in Year 5

The children made parachutes and tested the theory that unsupported objects fall towards the Earth because of the force of gravity acting between the Earth and the falling object. They explored whether more wind friction would slow the object down, or objects with a greater mass would fall quicker.





Year 1 love taking their learning outside, especially with the lovely weather we've had lately.

Year 1 have been learning about capacity and volume.

What could be more fun than a bit of water play in maths.



EP078 ST JOHN AND ST JAMES



Green oak raised beds will be made of oak sleepers, 400mm high, providing easy access to plants for all year groups



Bicycle trellis made from recycled bicycle wheels will provide support for climbing plants



An entrance oak pergola will welcome students into the bark mulched wild play area, full of scented herbs and shade



Gourd walk archways constructed from steel mesh and oak and providing green shade for seating in the EP



A potting shed will provide space for garden tools as well as the window for sowing and sprouting seedlings



The bits n bobs, wormery and compost will teach children to investigate who lives in the soil and the process of food waste



Whiteboard fixed to the wall to support the outdoor classroom, useful for weekly garden challenges



Potting desk/ mud kitchen to create a playful learning aspect in the bark mulched area of the EP



Outdoor classroom seating for 30 students will be constructed to support lessons and picnic time

And whilst the children begin to make the most of the glorious weather, we are planning the new outdoor classroom and edible garden.

Every class will have a growing space and some of their food will make it's way into school dinners too!

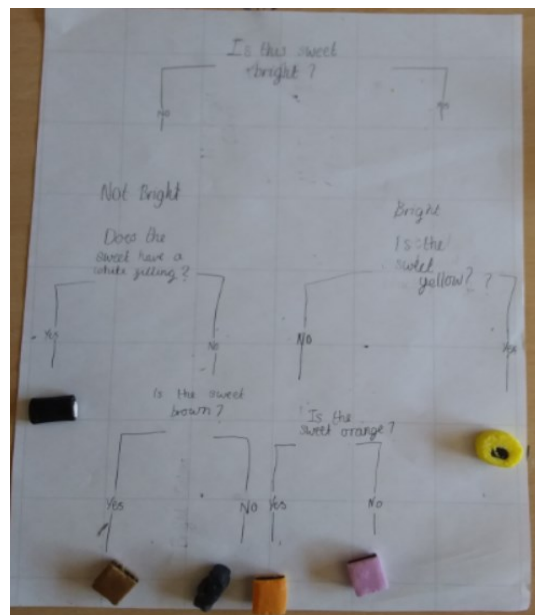
Revision	Notes	Date
A	presentation issue	17/05/2021
B	Design amendment	26/05/2021

Edible Playgrounds by Trees for Cities		Trees for Cities Project Concept/Design Kensington Park Place London W8 1AA Tel: 0207 840 1994 Email: info@treesforcities.org
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Project:	School
Drawing title:	Edible Playground Layout Plan
Scale & Sheet size:	1:100 @ A3
Drawing number:	EP078/01
Rev:	B
Date:	18/05/2021

In Science this half term, we were learning about living things and their environments. We learnt to classify different things. We started off by classifying liquorice allsorts and moved on to mini beasts.

Earthworms are invertebrates because they have no back bone and our classification key tells us that they are part of the Annelida family. Annelids are all segmented, with some living in the sea and some underground. Underground earthworms feast on organic matter and they poo out nutritious soil called vermicasts!



In Literacy, we made our own earthworm habitats. We wrote scripts of our reports about earthworms and recorded them.



One of our Christian values is peace. During our assembly we had time to think about what peace means for us. We thought about the places we find peace in our lives and how that makes us feel. We wrote our thoughts on a flower and added them to our 'Peace Garden'

The school council met this week to discuss projects and improvements we can make this term.



Last week the school council arranged a meeting with the school caterers to feedback on the current menu.

Whilst we are delighted with the quality of food being served, there are a few dishes that are not to the majority of the children tastes and the children miss some of their old favourites.

The new menus will be published on the website shortly so you can talk through them with your children.

If you have any comments or questions please ask your child to let their class representative know.

Jaziah reported he had undertaken a survey of children and the vast majority would like us to run non-uniform days for charities. **The councillors will be asking for suggestions of which charity we should support this term and why.**



We are also looking for suggestions from the school to help develop an outdoor reading area in the playground. **Please let your class representative have book suggestions and your ideas about how we can make this a fun and engaging space.**





The children in Nursery have been learning to co-operate, share and take turns when they are playing together. The sand is a favourite place to play and they need to share the sand so everyone can make a sandcastle. They love making up their own games and pretending to go camping when they are playing with the tent.

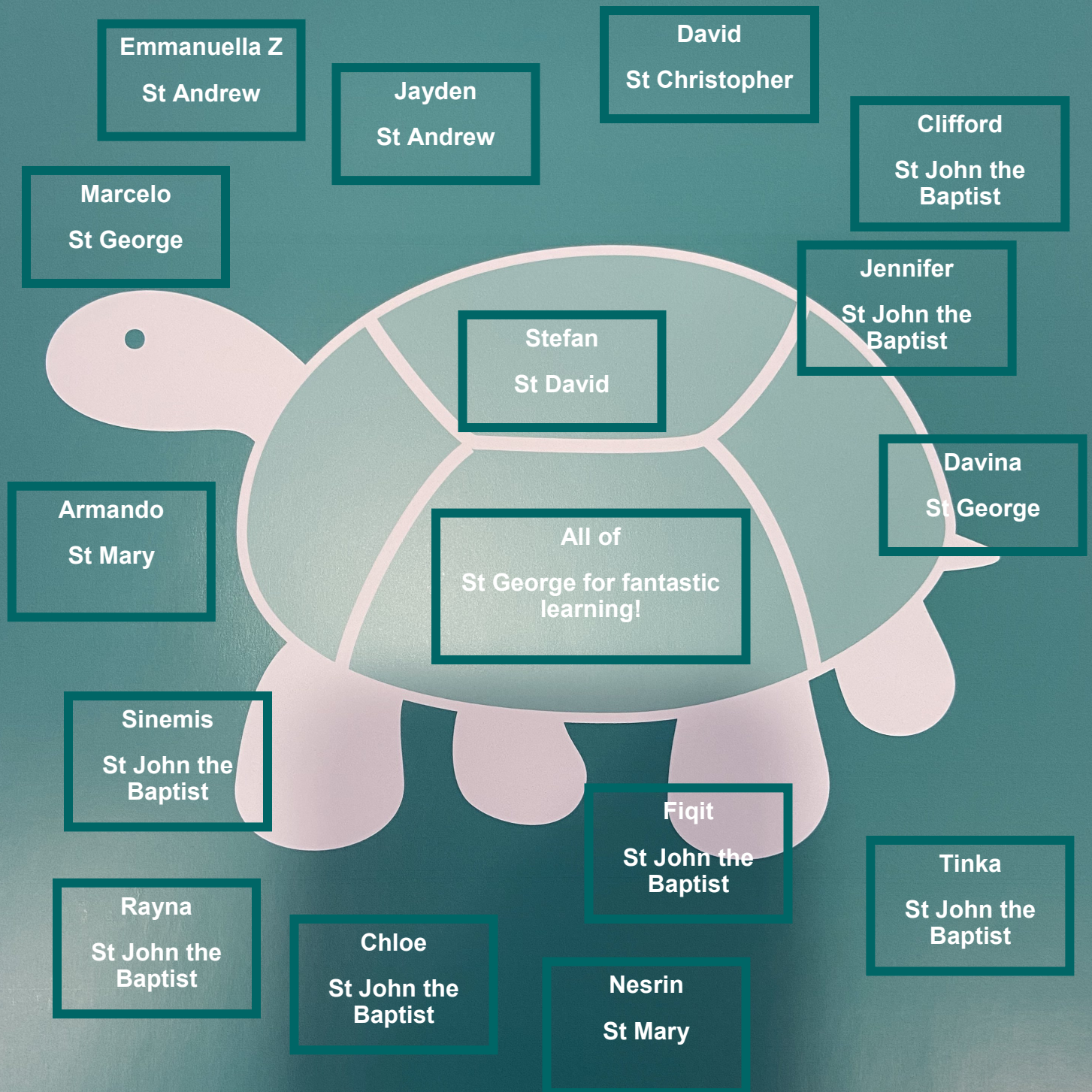


It's hard to believe that our reception children are nearly ready to move onto year one.

Last week the children were showing how responsible they are becoming by making their clean ocean so the sea creatures can live happily, celebrating World Oceans Day.

There will be lots of transition activities in the coming weeks to help the children to get used to their new classrooms and adults.

PERSEVERANCE



'I can do all things through Christ
who strengthens me'.
Philippians 4:13