

# *Rooted together in love, growing without limits*

*Believing in the worth of every individual, we are a nurturing, Christian sanctuary of learning, where all can flourish. We aspire for everyone to achieve heights of success, to deepen courage and to experience breadth of creativity, knowing the joy of God's love.*

LIVING OUR VISION

Summer 1 2021

## ***Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am with you."***

What a joyful term it has been, with all the children and staff back in school, including Ms Hawker, our deputy headteacher, who has returned from maternity leave! Fifteen months into this global pandemic, it can sometimes be difficult to remember what life was like before Covid19. However children learn and adapt quickly and our re-organised school days run smoothly. We have settled into a new 'normal.' Children remain in Year group bubbles for activities, playtimes and lunch times. Assemblies are pre-recorded. Mass and songs of praise take place in bubble groups. Mrs Goddard has written some encouraging songs that we all love. Although these have been written with the children in mind, they carry some powerful messages for all of us. The chorus of her latest song reinforces the truth of God's love for each one of us, and reminds us of our natural response to his goodness and love. It goes, 'There's no one else who loves me more, That's why I'll worship and adore the God who loves me, stays with me, who never will let go of me.' This song also reflects our school vision. The recordings of all our assemblies can be found on our website. It was so helpful to be able to meet with parents face to face for our parents' evenings this term and have a chance to talk through your child's learning. Reports will be sent home later this term. We are just completing our teacher assessments that will feed more detail into these.

Teachers have been working really hard to ensure any learning lost during the two lockdowns is caught up. Research is beginning to show that the areas most impacted across all schools are maths and early language development, including reading. At the moment, every class reads in the morning from 8.30am and staff use this time, first thing in the morning, to hear children read one to one on a rolling rota. It is really important that children arrive in school as near to 8.30am as possible. Children arriving at school as the gate shuts are missing this opportunity to read with their teacher. In order to support maths learning, our teachers have been planning some maths activities into other curriculum areas to help cover all the mathematics objectives. If you would like to help your child with their mathematics learning, teaching them to tell the time (both digital and analogue) is a good place to start. We are currently revising our curriculum for next year and once finalised this will be published on our website.

Our newly planted outdoor classroom is establishing well. We have installed a webcam in a bird box ready for us all to observe nesting birds. Our allotment area is planted up. A big thank you to our volunteer parents who have worked with every class to sow the seeds. We love to welcome parents into school to support our work and vision. Several parents (and governors) also volunteer in our foodbank. If you would like to volunteer at school, please contact me on [admin@jkeble.brent.gov.uk](mailto:admin@jkeble.brent.gov.uk)

Have a fantastic half term and I look forward to seeing you on June 7th 2021.

Best wishes

Catherine Allard

Headteacher

# Rooted together in love, growing without limits

## Term Dates 2020-2021

Summer Term 2021 (65 days)	
Term starts	June 7th 2021
Term ends	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021(for children)

## Term Dates 2021-2022

Autumn Term 2020 (72 days)	
Inset Day	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021 and Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2021
Term starts	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
Half term	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
Term ends	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
Spring Term 2021 (59 days)	
Inset Day	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Term starts	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Half term	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Term ends	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022
Summer Term 2021 (64 days)	
Term starts	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
Bank holiday	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022
Half term	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022
Term ends	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2022

## Attendance and Punctuality

It is really important for your child to be in school every day and to be at school on time. There is a direct link between attendance and grades. **Children who are in school every day leave John Keble School with higher grades than those children who are absent from school several times each term.** All of our highest achieving children have attendance above 98% and are in school every day on time. This is because they are present. Children who are away on a regular basis, a day or two every few weeks, do not usually leave school at the right level for secondary school. Absences from school also affect your children's relationships with their friends as they miss out on games and social opportunities.

If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to be in school, please send them in. We will send them home if they become unwell.

If there are any reasons why your child is reluctant to come to school, please speak to your child's teacher or Ms Dee in the front office. We will work with you to improve your child's attendance.

# *Rooted together in love, growing without limits*

Nurturing Christian Sanctuary of Learning, where all can Flourish...

## Nursery



This half-term, Nursery have been learning about how to care for animals. We have had visits from a guinea pig, a giant snail and a dog! We also have some caterpillars in class at the moment and we have been observing their life-cycle. The home corner has turned into a vets and a grooming parlour. Children have been making appointments and bringing in their sick animals. The vets have been busy bandaging and administering medicine.



We have continued to read lots of books. One of the books we read, called Fussy Freda, was about a fussy eater. We have been exploring different kinds of foods using our senses. The children made their own fruit kebabs, selecting and chopping the fruit and talking about which fruit they like the best.

The children have also been visiting our new nature garden. They have enjoyed smelling the herbs, looking at the insects in the bug hotel and looking for frogspawn in the pond, although we have not found any yet!

## Reception

In Reception, we have been reading the story “The Tiny Seed” and have enjoyed learning about growth and planting. We loved planting our very own sunflower seeds and vegetables in our school allotment. We discussed how to care for plants and wrote instructions to teach others how to plant a flower. We also learnt about butterfly and frog life cycles and have enjoyed observing our own class caterpillars grow into butterflies! The children have enjoyed observing the caterpillar investigation station



and have produced some excellent writing, describing the caterpillars’ changes. In maths, we have been learning about addition and subtraction and have been working hard on our number formation. In RE and collective worship, we have discussed how we can care for the Earth and all of God’s special creation.



# *Rooted together in love, growing without limits*

## Year 1

In Year One this term we have enjoyed making our own jam sandwiches and then writing instructions to instruct others on how to make them. We made sure to use lots of “bossy verbs” in our writing!



In science, we have been learning about different materials and we enjoyed learning their names and properties. We planned and carried out an investigation about which material would make the best shelter for the Gruffalo: we decided on plastic as it was waterproof. We loved exploring the garden, with help from some of the parents, and we planted seeds which we are now growing inside the classroom. We will explore plants more during the Summer 2 term!



## Year 2

This half-term the children have been working hard, learning tricks of the writing trade to make their stories spookier and more suspense filled. They have looked carefully at how the choice of verbs can make a huge difference to the images conjured up in a reader's head and have tried to make careful choices to get the reader feeling worried for the main character. The wonderful book *Black Dog* by Levi Pinfold was a great source of inspiration for this. The children have also been looking at the pros and cons of having the responsibility for a class pet. They learnt to use paragraphs to help organise their thoughts and communicate clearly to their teachers. In the end, they decided that keeping their tomato plants alive was enough responsibility for this term!



In mathematics the children have been learning to describe position and movement: they've been getting to grips with left, right, clockwise and counter-clockwise turns, as well as quarter, half and three-quarter turns. We've been directing "Robotic Rachel", "Digital David" and "Android Anna" around mazes in our classrooms, hoping to make sure our expensive robots don't crash into tables, chairs and other pieces of furniture.

The children have absolutely loved the “Materials” topic, in particular learning to sew using different stitching techniques. Using the different class names at John Keble as inspiration, the children block-printed various leaf shapes onto a huge sheet, which is now in the process of being framed for

display in the school. You can see a video of how the sheet was made on the Year 2 class page of the John Keble School website.



# *Rooted together in love, growing without limits*

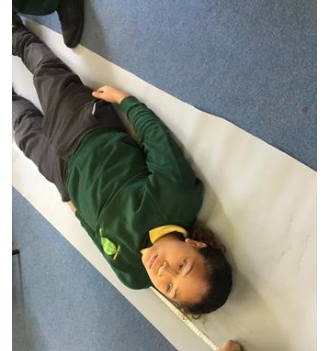
## **Year 3**



We have had an exciting term in year 3, learning about magnets, forces, compasses and maps! We really enjoyed doing experiments to see what materials were magnetic, and seeing which surfaces had less friction for toy cars to move on. In maths, we have been measuring everything we can see – even ourselves! This has helped us to understand centimetres, millimetres and metres, plus the very grown up topic of perimeter.

We have been practising our summarising and predicting skills using familiar – and not so familiar – tales. The Three Little Wolves and The Big, Bad Pig were particular highlights. We also wrote wonderful extended retells of Little Red Riding Hood, practicing suspense, speech and dual adjectives.

Spanish has been all about food and ordering in restaurants, while in PSHE we have learnt a lot about sun safety, dental hygiene and the importance of sleep.



## **Year 4**

The children in Year 4 have been exploring states of matter in science. They had a great time exploring different materials and identifying whether they were solids, liquids or gases. This then helped them to learn about the water cycle and how water evaporates and condenses. We made it rain in the classroom and then used Keynote to present our findings for John Keble's end of topic showcase.



In geography the children learnt about rivers - they can now name and find different UK rivers on a map and explain the different features of a river. One of the most exciting parts of the term was when we made our own bridges to cross over rivers. Before starting building, we were engineers and explored the different structures bridges are made from, investigating which were strongest using tooth-picks, spaghetti and marshmallows!



There are some photos of us and our bridges in the Gallery section of the school website.

# *Rooted together in love, growing without limits*

## **Year 5**

This half-term, the children in Year 5 have covered a range of topics from exploring properties of materials in Science to designing a moving toy in DT.

The children created circuits to test their electrical conductivity. They carried out a science investigation to find out which materials will dissolve in liquid to form a solution and what different variables affect this as well as how you could recover a substance from a solution using sieving, filtering and evaporation. The children have been further exploring reversible changes experimenting with changes of state as well as identifying irreversible changes.



Using different cams and computer-aided design (Tinkercad) the children created a moving toy to retell a story to some younger children.

The children in Year 5 have been inspired by reading 'The Great Kapok Tree' and articles from the National Geographic about the impacts of deforestation and have been using this information to form persuasive written arguments against it!

Year 5 have been exploring, 'What does it mean to be Sikh?' They have learnt about the Khalsa Sikh community - how it was founded and what the 5K signifies. The children have heard from young Sikhs in Britain about how their faith impacts their daily lives and considered what they can relate to from their faith or secular communities.

This half-term, in Computing, RE and PHSE, Year 5 have been discussing body image in more depth: the media's power, photo alteration, perceptions of beauty, stereotypes and role models as well as how belonging and religious identity can be expressed through what we wear.



## **Year 6**

This term has been really exciting for year 6. We started the term off with an art and DT day where the children learnt many different printing techniques and tried them out. They have developed their ideas into a final design for a sustainable shopping bag. Using unwanted textiles, the children created a woven back panel for their bag. In the last week, they will be printing their final design and assembling the bag using a sewing machine.



As well as textiles and art, the children have also been learning cooking skills as part of DT. This half term, the children had to plan and make a buffet lunch for the whole of year 6. We were really impressed with their enthusiasm and maturity. Our writing lessons continued the theme as they wrote their own recipes based on what they cooked.

In RE we have been learning about how the Christian message has survived for over 2000 years. To demonstrate the importance of the trinity to Christians, the children created their own braided trinity bracelets to represent the Father, the

Son and the Holy Spirit.