



Live life, Love Learning, Guided by God
St Mary's Primary School and Nursery
Head Teacher Newsletter
Friday 21st April 2023



Dear families,

Welcome back to the summer term at St Mary's! I hope you all had a good Easter break and managed to spend quality time with loved ones. The children have had a marvellous first week back and have been working incredibly hard!

For April and May, our value will be perseverance. We started our week in Collective Worship by discussing perseverance and what it really means. Children described perseverance as:

Never giving up

When you keep
on trying

Encouraging
others to achieve

We spoke about how sometimes things in life might feel tricky. We thought about something we could persevere with this week and set ourselves a personal challenge to overcome. Next week we will be reading the book 'Maybe'. It is a story about all the possibilities ahead of you and all the magical, unbounded potential you hold inside.

[Please have a look at the resources we used here on our website.](#)

The next class newsletters will be on Friday 28th April.
The next Headteacher Newsletter will be on 5th May.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Mrs Lawlor



Our whole school Jigsaw PSHE theme for this half term is 'Relationships'. Across the school, children will be learning about the importance of building healthy relationships and will consider topics such as being a good friend to ourselves & to others; global citizenship, conflict & boundaries, family roles & relationships, managing safe and respectful relationships online.

We will be holding a parent meeting on Friday 28th April to give more information about our PSHE curriculum, including RSHE (relationships, sex and health education) All parents & carers are encouraged to come along. Please see the separate letter for full details





Our Article of the Week assembly this week focussed on Earth Day, which takes place on 22nd April to show support for the protection of the environment and our planet. Many UNCRC articles relate to this theme and we focussed particularly on articles 6 & 24.



Article 6 (life survival & development) Every child has the right to life and governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.



Article 24 (health & health services) Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment.

The children considered things that we can do at school and at home to take care of our planet.

Developing our Wildlife area

As many of you know, we have been working to develop our wildlife /pond area for some time now. Mr Tynan has been very busy tidying it up and installing some of the donated items we have had so far, such as the beautiful bird table.

However, we are still in need of additional flowers/plants, equipment, ornaments etc. to enhance and increase the learning opportunities. Taking learning outdoors can have a major positive impact on the learning and development of children. From enhancing problem solving skills to communication and resilience, outdoor learning provides endless opportunities for exploration, experimentation and contextual learning. It is therefore our plan to make it as interesting, versatile and inspiring as we can.

We really are very lucky at St. Mary's to have such lovely outdoor spaces and it would be amazing to be doing pond dipping, plant/ insect classifications, bird watching and cross curricular activities like poetry, sketching and music outside in the wildlife/pond area.

If you do have any garden items that you plan to dispose of, please do bring them in so we can make use of them. We are particularly keen to plants a variety of plants to attract insects and have a selection of old picnic blankets for the children to sit on and perhaps an old sail/umbrella to provide shade.

Many thanks in advance.

Our value for April and May is:



Perseverance

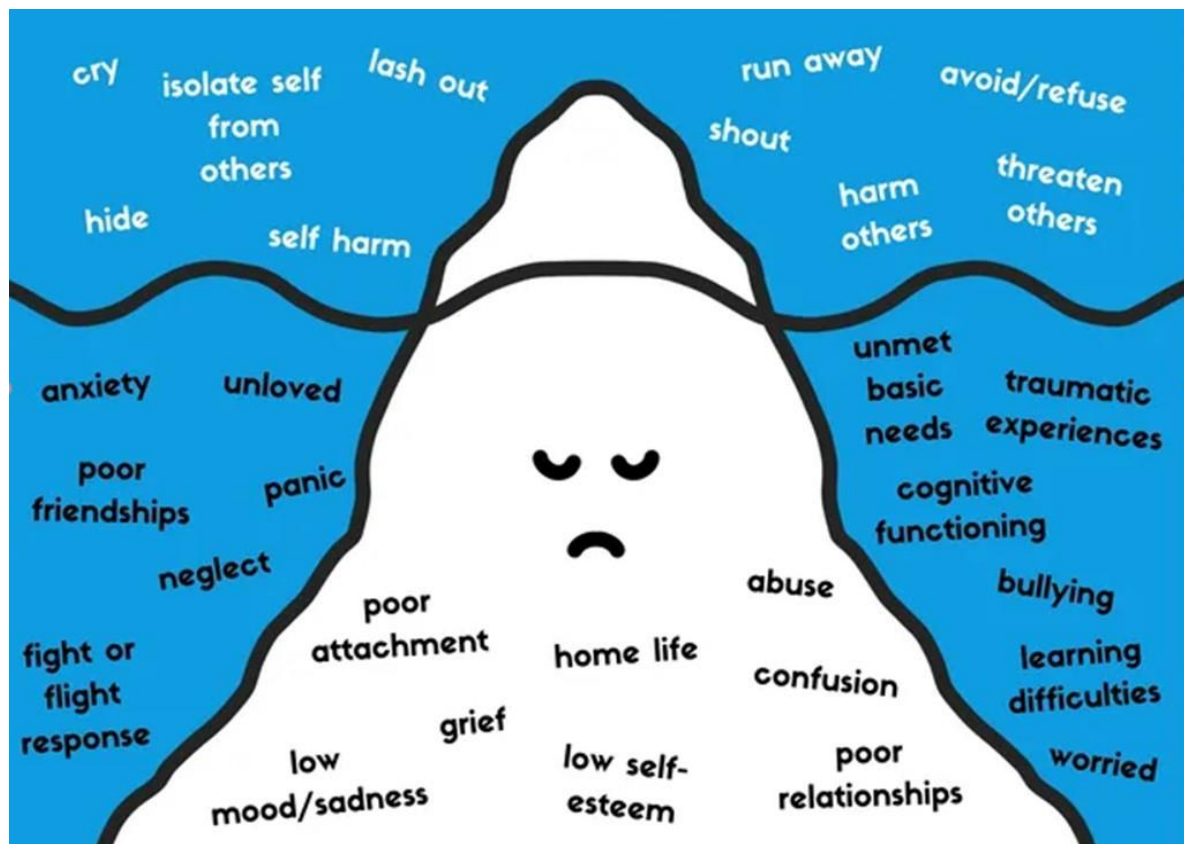


Attachment Aware Practice

Here at St Mary's, we place great emphasis on building relationships within our school community. We are very lucky that we have a dedicated team of staff who invest in getting to know our pupils well and managing behaviour through the relationships they have with our pupils.

The tip of the iceberg

The behaviours we sometimes see in children at school or at home are like the tip of an iceberg. These are the things we can see above the surface. However, it is important to see what is lying below the surface in order to know how best to support a child that has become unregulated.



To continue growing our practice, we have embarked on the Virtual School's award for Attachment Aware Practice. During our INSET on Monday, all staff engaged with training on Emotion Coaching and childhood attachment theory.



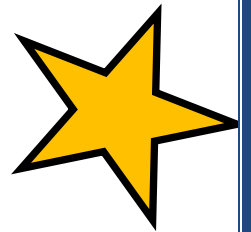
Why Attachment Aware schools?

There is a growing evidence base in international research of the effectiveness of whole-school attachment-based strategies being effective for care experienced children, and in fact all children, in decreasing sanctions, exclusions and overall difficulties whilst improving pupil and adult outcomes (Parker et al., 2016; Rose et al., 2019). Afc Virtual School believes that all schools should be attachment aware and trauma informed, to ensure they are well placed to support the needs of our most vulnerable children and young people.



St Mary's Stars of the week

Thursday 20th April 2023



Lucas YR for working very hard when labelling parts of a skeleton.

Tillie YR for behaving so sensibly during our trip to the dentist.

Poppy Y1 for always being a fantastic role model to her friends and showing great enthusiasm in all her learning.

Eliza Y1 for super effort and enthusiasm across every area of her learning – well done Eliza!

Eloise Y2 for all of her fantastic home learning projects she completed over the Easter break including a fact file, recipe, gratitude list and junk model.

Cody E Y2 for his enthusiasm and participation during English and sharing all of his knowledge of African animals with the class.

Riley Y3 for contributing in our discussion in English and using some interesting descriptive words about a pebble.

Libby Y3 for writing a good recount about her Easter holidays in the past tense.

Leo Y4 for keeping a very informative diary during the Easter holidays and reading it out in class with enthusiasm.

Stanley Y4 for returning from the Easter holidays with enthusiasm to contribute to lessons and work hard.

Amelia Y5 for taking part in class discussions and supporting others to do so.

Sofia Y5 for her fully-formed comprehension answers in this week's guided reading.

Ella Y6 for accepting feedback in good spirit and persevering with your maths learning. Please keep it up! Well done.

Jack Y6 for starting the term with a positive attitude, willing to contribute in class, work hard and help others. Well done!

Well done to all our stars of the week!