



## Languages morning

Many thanks to everyone who supported our very successful languages morning earlier this week. We trialled a hybrid model, where parents delivered sessions via Zoom and children and staff delivered sessions in the classroom.

We were able to offer taster sessions of Italian, Welsh, Swedish, German, Arabic, Polish, Swiss German, Turkish, Hungarian and Greek to children across the school.

I would like to thank the parents who supported these sessions, but also the children in Years 5 and 6 who also supported the morning. We had more children than ever sharing their home languages with other classes. Many thanks to Jacint, Arin, Zoe, Kora, Laura, Agnes, Iris, Keira, Didi, Chiara and Francesca. I hope you all enjoyed your teaching experience!



During the week before half term, the playground was a hive of activity, with children from Reception to Year 6 walking or running 2.6 miles around the playground.

I was really impressed with the attitude of the children who were certainly living out our school value of resilience, but also community in the manner of how they supported their classmates.

In each edition of Headlines, I am going to share some content from Thinkuknow. Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's Child Protection Command CEOP (NCA-CEOP) whose aim is to protect children and young people from sexual abuse online.

For more information, advice and guidance, visit their [parent's website](#) and download their [home activity worksheets](#) for fun, online safety activities to do with your family.

## Chatting, being kind and making friends online

Primary-age children may not have previously had much experience with video chatting apps such as zoom, FaceTime and Skype, but may well be using them now for education or to keep in touch with family and friends.

To make sure your child has a positive experience video chatting online, read this [guide for parents and carers](#)

The internet has many positive opportunities for children to learn and play, but it can also be used in negative and unkind ways.

It's really important to speak to your child about being kind online, and how they can get help if they see or hear anything that makes them feel worried, scared or sad.

Use these [conversation starters](#) to help your child understand the importance of being kind online.

The term 'online friend' can be used to describe people you only know through the internet, or those that you also know offline. Some children make friends online by meeting new people through online platforms such as gaming sites.

To help children have positive online friendships, read this [handy guide](#).



### **Anti-bullying week**

Next week, School Council is taking the lead on our work on marking Anti-bullying week, when they will be leading assemblies on Monday.

We are asking all children to mark **Odd socks day** on Monday by wearing odd socks to school!

### **Got a question for the Governing Body?**

The day-to-day operational management at St. Aidan's is the responsibility of Anne and the senior leadership team.

The Governing Body has overall responsibility for:

- Setting the strategic direction for the School
- Holding school leaders to account for the educational performance
- Overseeing the School's financial performance and ensuring money is well spent.

If you've got any questions for the Governing Body, you can email us via

[chairgovernors@staidansprimaryschool.org.uk](mailto:chairgovernors@staidansprimaryschool.org.uk)

### **Fancy a chat with a Governor?**

Normally Governors would be available to take your questions face-to-face during parent consultation evenings, however, since these are running virtually again this year, we're offering GovChat via Zoom. If you'd like to chat virtually, drop an email to [chairgovernors@staidansprimaryschool.org.uk](mailto:chairgovernors@staidansprimaryschool.org.uk) and we'll organise a Zoom chat with a member of the Governing Body at a time that suits you.

### **Parents consultation meetings**

Parents consultation meetings are taking place with class teachers today and on 17<sup>th</sup> November for the main school, and during the school day of 17<sup>th</sup> November for children in the Nursery.

Please contact the school office if you require any further information.

### **Police information re e-scooters**

The local police have asked me to share information on e-scooters to ensure that parents are aware of the law and implications that could arise from using them. Particular concerns have been raised about parents carrying their children on e-scooters.

They have shared the following powerpoint, which can be accessed on the school website, via a link [here](#).

### **CO<sub>2</sub> monitors**

Thanks to the generosity of the PSA, we now have mobile CO<sub>2</sub> monitors in all our classrooms. Staff across the school have reported how reassuring these are, in that we can now quantify the air quality in our classrooms and ensure that they and children are working in optimal conditions. This means that whilst we will be maintaining some ventilation in all classrooms, we can now be confident of the air quality and now also consider thermal comfort.

The CO<sub>2</sub> monitors chosen have a very simple display, which changes colour if CO<sub>2</sub> levels rise. So far, we are keeping 'green screens,' which indicates that levels are optimal. If the screens do turn yellow, it is an indication that more ventilation is required and more windows will be opened.

### **Playground Buddies are back!**

It has been great to have the Playground Buddies back and ensuring that everyone has happy playtimes and lunchtimes. They will be giving everyone an update on their role in an assembly this half term.

### **Update from the PSA**

**St Aidan's PSA Christmas Fair, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 5pm-8pm**

We haven't truly been able to meet in person for over 18 months. It's time to get together and celebrate, we have a lot of catching up to do!

The PSA are working hard to bring you a lovely little event to ease us all into the festive season. We will need your help in the next few weeks and on the day itself to make this a great occasion for the whole St Aidan's community.

Your class reps will be in touch to discuss what you can do to help out on the day. In the meantime, there are a few things we need organised asap:

**1- Raffle / Tombola items.** As in previous years we will be holding a raffle (and possibly tombola) and will need your donations as soon as possible. Items must be new / unopened please, it can be wine, beer, chocolates, toiletries, fancy foodstuffs, toys, stationary etc. Just give us a shout if you are unsure. Please either bring into the school office or get in touch with your class rep.

**2- Books.** We will be holding a 2nd hand book stall, please go through your children's books or your own shelves and pull out anything that is in reasonable condition. We will be selling off at a standard price across the board, but if you wish to donate something you think more valuable please get in touch.

**3- 2nd hand clothing-** Some of you had heard we were thinking of doing a 2nd hand clothing stall, but we have decided against it for this event. Could possibly do this in the warmer months, stay tuned for collection dates sometime early next year.

**4- Cake / home produce stall.** You asked for cake, and cake you shall have! For those keen to bake please put it in your calendar, get in touch with your

class rep if you would like to contribute a sweet or savoury treat and we will arrange a time for drop-off. Due to the roaring success of the school garden jam sale, we would like to gather donations of other homemade produce. If you have any questions on this, please get in touch.

**5- Crafty Arty Stall-** Fancy yourself a bit crafty and wish to donate a few items to the Crafty Arty Stall? Anything goes with this one, it can be one item or many, hobby or professional quality. Christmas themed more than welcome but we are open to every crafty thing going.

**6- Market stall holders-** Do you wish to hold a stall yourself? From seasons past it would seem that items geared to children got the most attention, but please get in touch if you want to book a stall. We will give you a good rate in return for a small fee and donation to the raffle / Tombola.

**7- Entry Fee-** Start searching for those random coppers down the back of the couch and stuck in the hem of that holey old coat!

This year we are asking for entry donations of copper coins, keeping it accessible to all.

(The odd gold coin won't be knocked back though; we are a charity after all!)

### **Christmas Cards**

The card designs were looking fantastic this year! They are in the process of printing a sample card for each child and samples will be in book bags in the next few days, along with your order forms.

Christmas cards – pack of 12 - £5.00  
Gift Tags – £1.50 per pack of 11 - £2.25  
Wrapping Paper - 6 sheets – £6.00  
Mugs – (including gift box) – £6.00  
Tea Towels - £7.50  
Eco Bags - £8.50

We will only have one week to submit orders in order to get them in with time before Christmas so please hand back to class teachers as soon as you can. A deadline will be text closer to the time.

### **Living Advent Calendar**

The Living Advent Calendar is back!!!

Started by a St Aidan's parent in 2019, the Stroud Green Living Advent Calendar is part of a growing movement to bring joy to the streets where we live.

Each night in December, volunteers in homes/ shops/ cafes etc. take a turn to reveal and illuminate a festive picture or scene in their front window, to brighten the darkness and bring the community together. See [here](#) for more information.

If anyone is interested in taking part or helping out with spreading the word re this year's Living Advent Calendar please contact Carrie on [carrievacher@hotmail.com](mailto:carrievacher@hotmail.com) or via the FB page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/501794067104562/>



Black History Month is celebrated each October in the UK. This year, each class researched and celebrated the contribution that Black people with a connection to the borough of Haringey have made. Classes shared their research in sharing assemblies before half term. I was also really struck by some really thoughtful reflections that children shared in our assemblies.

The people that children researched included textile designer Althea McNish; footballer Reece Oxford; David Lammy MP; footballer and British army officer Walter Tull; fashion designer Oswald Boateng; actor Judith Jacob; poet, publisher and founder of New Beacon Books, John la Rose; writer and historian Stella Dadzie; medic, Dr Ernest Goffe; sprinter Heather Oakes and boxer Randolph Turpin.

Classes also had the opportunity to study poetry and stories written by significant black writers. We are preparing a display of some of this work.

### **Does your child suffer with sleep issues?**

Do you struggle with your child's bedtime?

Will your child not sleep in their own bed?

A recent poll has indicated that 50% of children will have an issue with sleep at some point.

The [National Sleep Helpline](#) is available to support parents with high quality, evidence based advice and has been recommended to us by the school nursing service.

### **Individual pupil photographs**

On Friday we are looking forward to Tempest photography visiting St. Aidan's to take individual pupil photos and also sibling groups.

### **New guidance from Public Health**

At the end of last week, I was informed of new guidance from the Public Health team with respect to the use of lateral flow devices and the response when a positive case is identified within a school. Following our outbreak last half term, I would judge this to be very sensible developments in the management of cases within school settings.

Lateral flow device (LFD) testing is now recommended to children under the age of 12 and should be used as a preventative measure in the outbreak management response for primary schools starting from reception age (4 years old).

Therefore, if we do have any more positive COVID cases within school, the children who are identified as

close contacts will be asked to do regular lateral flow device testing, as well as a PCR test.

Therefore, I would recommend that parents ensure they have lateral flow devices available at home in case they are needed. Families can collect an LFD testing kit from any local pharmacy (or library). A full list of where to collect testing kits is available here: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>. Families unable to collect one, can also be sent an LFD testing kit via post using the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

### **Has your child tested positive for COVID?**

It is very important that we are informed of any positive COVID tests in children as soon as possible. If you receive notification that your child has received a positive test during school hours e.g. 8am until 4pm, please call the school office on 020 8340 2352. Outside of these times, please text or leave a voicemail to 07946 174469, stating the name and class of your child.