

# THIS WEEK AT ST FAITH'S

## 26th February 2021

This week, as the sun shone brightly, bird song filled the school site and unseasonal warm air brought smiles to faces, life began to feel, well, more upbeat. By Monday, winter is officially over and barring a visit from the Beast from the East, hotter days, lighter evenings and more outdoor activities should prevail in the coming weeks. Thanks to the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday, we now have a 'roadmap to freedom' and the much welcomed re-opening of schools is the first stage on that journey. We have a lot to look forward to and I suspect all of us will appreciate a little more, the small pleasures of normal life, including the school community being back together again.

### Art

The lockdown period has been a good time for our budding artists to practise their techniques, stretch their imagination and explore their creative ideas in the comfort of their own homes. Through the Home Learning Programme, pupils have continued to focus on a wide range of artistic themes and styles.

Foundation children have been reading about Malala who wanted a magic pencil to "draw a better world, a more peaceful world." They then either drew their ideas of a better world or took their pencil for a walk and thought of peaceful things.

Year One have been expressing themselves through art, after enjoying the story, *The Dot*, by Peter Reynolds. The children also worked in the style of the illustrator and author of *Odd Dog Out*, by Rob Biddulph, by drawing self-portraits in his caricature style and attempting some the illustrations.

Year 2 have been looking at the works of Georgia O'Keefe this term and specifically her 1958 'Ladder to the Moon'. The children interpreted the artist's ideas and recreated them in their own individual styles.

Year 3 have been thinking about surrealism, looking specifically at the works of Rene Magritte, and creating mind maps to help them think about what surrealism is and how they might depict their own art work in this style.

Whilst studying sculpture and the artist Pablo Picasso, Year 4 have created their own sculptures, inspired by Picasso, using everyday objects found at home.

Inuit Art and in particular, the *Legend of Sedna: The Goddess of the Sea*, has been the focus for Year 5. They were tasked with creating a book cover design for this Inuit folktale. Some of the pupils also took on the challenge of constructing their very own Inukshuk (a manmade landmark or cairn from this region) from items at home.

Pupils in Year 6 have been exploring African art and the symbolic patterns used in paintings and masks.

Year 7 have continued to develop their Bronze Art Award portfolios, which will be submitted for assessment at the end of the school year.

Year 8 pupils have been learning about illuminated letters, designing their own whilst exploring the theme of famous fairy tales and mythical creatures.

Finally on the subject of Art, I thought you would like to see some of the impressive work in the portfolios of our art scholars. Not surprisingly we heard this week that several of our Year 8 pupils have been awarded senior school art scholarships. These awards are fully deserved and a great credit to the talents of the pupils and the skill and enthusiasm of our Art teachers.

## Kraznir

Staying on the theme of creativity, here is a deliciously-looking cake made by Emma as an extension to her fantasy writing project in English on a land called Kraznir.

## Live Games Lessons

This week saw the start of 'live' Games lessons for pupils in Years 3 to 8. These optional sessions focus on a range of skills and movement and are held at the beginning of the week so that pupils can continue to develop their techniques in their remaining PE and Games lesson during that week. Mrs Melville, who led the sessions, was delighted with both the number of participants and their level of engagement in what looked to be great fun.

## Show Racism the Red Card

Year 5 pupils are currently considering racism during their PSHCE lessons. Pupils have excelled creatively in developing messages to stop racism, including posters, Lego models and PowerPoints. Mrs Switsur, Head of PSHCE, and the Year 5 tutors couldn't be more proud of how the children are expressing themselves over this serious issue.

### [WILLIAM'S PRESENTATION](#)

## Finally...

No doubt you are acutely aware of how much time your children are spending on screens. Newton House Captains, Sofi and Harriet, are particularly concerned about this and in the weeks before half-term, worked together, independently of their teachers and parents, to create a narrated PowerPoint which they then shared with Newton House. Many of their friends literally rose to the challenge of building their own Terrific Towers! Full marks to both Harriet and Sofi for the leadership they displayed in addressing this important issue.

<https://youtu.be/AESmgQmhJxY>

I am now off to prepare for tonight's SFPA online Family Quiz, in which 70 teams will be testing their knowledge of St Faith's and Cambridge. Good luck to everyone taking part and I hope you enjoy this light-hearted get together for the St Faith's community.

With all good wishes,

Nigel Helliwell