

The Federation of St Joseph's Junior, Infant and Nursery Schools

"Description begins in the writer's imagination, but should finish in the readers"

Welcome to this term's English Newsletter!

Wow! St Joseph's children continue to inspire and shine as young authors, poets and performers. Last term saw children scribbling away in every corner of the school, writing diaries entries as smelly rats from 1666, reimagined naughty fairy tales, Amazon adventure epics and inspirational speeches. Passionate conversations about reading could be heard flowing from classrooms as the children passionately discussed their class texts. Below is a snapshot of the creativity and enthusiasm we have for English!

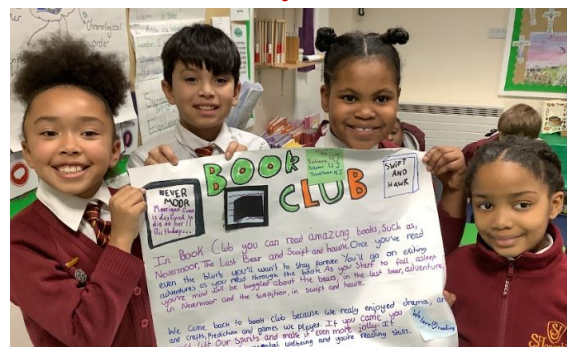
Reading Club.

Since September, children from across Key Stage 2 have been meeting up to discuss what they love about reading and discover new books. They have read *Nevermoor* by Jessica Townsend, *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold and Swift and Hawke by Logan Macx. Naomi (4J) even created Reading Club's own moto: Once a reader, always a succeder! Reading Club has continued to grow bigger and bigger and they were eager to share why!

"Reading Club is a lovely way to spend time after school." Jacob Year 3

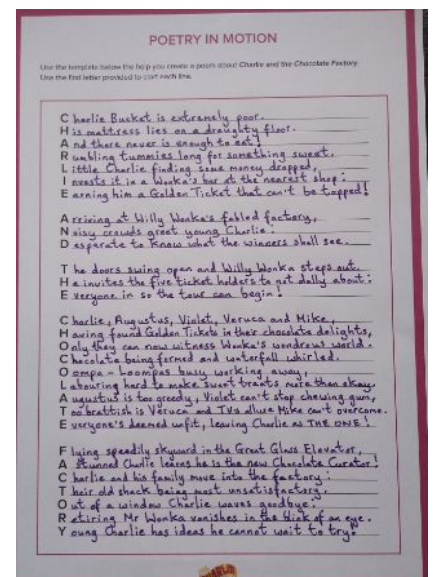
"Reading is much more fun when discussing the book together!" Paul Year 5.

"Reading Club is fabulous because we get to spend time with our friends who also love reading!" Axelle Year 3.



Competitions!

St Joseph's pupils entered three competitions last term. The first was a reading competition to create their own concertina book based on a Joseph Coelho poem. The second, was to write a letter to Father Christmas from the point-of-view of someone from history. Lastly, children had to design a classroom creation based on *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*. As a school community, we have been incredibly impressed with the time and effort gone into all the entries. We are so lucky to have incredibly creative children within our school.



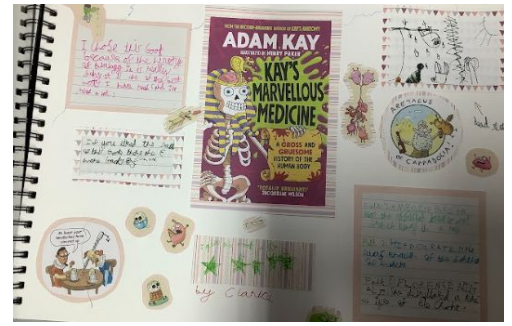
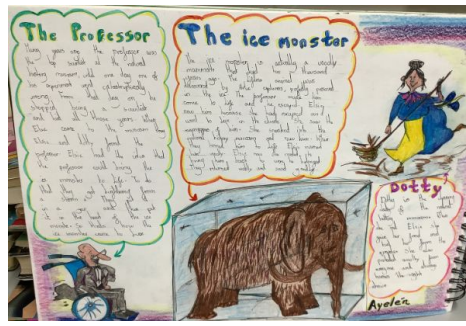
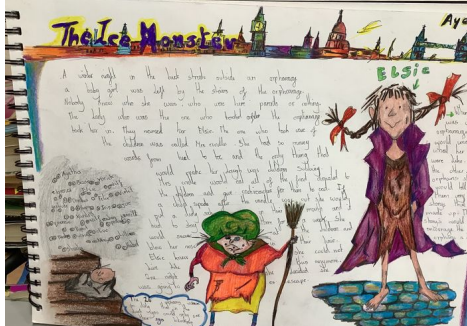
Above: A snapshot of Ines and Juan video entry.
Right: Ethan and Jemima (Year 2) and Divine (Year 1) winner of the Key Stage 1 Christmas writing competition.
Left: Poem entry from China in Year 4.

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Reading Journals - Books we’ve read, loved and recommend

Reading journals are a thinking space for St Joseph’s children to explore and reflect on their reading experience through writing, drawing and creativity! Each week the journal is taken home for someone to record a story they have read, loved and would like to share with their classmates. Here are some fabulous examples from Ayelen in Year 4.



Spoken Word Performance: Speak Up!

On Friday 24th February, children across Key Stage 1 and 2 will be taking part in St Joseph’s first spoken word performance. The children have been working incredibly hard over the past few weeks learning their poems, creating routines and building confidence so that they can share their creativity with their peers and families. They have all gained skills in performance, speaking clearly and adopting a role.

“When I heard we were going to perform our poems, I was blown away that I could show off my creativity and spoken language ability!” Sahara Year 4.

“I wanted to sign up for the Spoken Word Performance so I had an opportunity to perform in front of a large audience” Caleb Year 4.

“The Spoken Word Performance has allowed me to learn new things such as expressing feelings through poetry and building confidence” Leorah Year 3.



What to look forward to?

- Book Week - 27th February - 3rd March.
- Enormous Crocodile Dance Workshops - 27th and 28th February.
- World Books Day Fancy Dress - 3rd March.
- Class trips to West Norwood Library.
- Years 1, 2 and 3 Trip to the Royal Opera House to see Cinderella- ballet.
- Plenty more English Competitions - keep your eyes peeled!



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Outstanding writing from our pupils at St Joseph's.

Emmanuel from 4J wrote a factual tour of the Water Cycle.

"Hello Molecules! Get Ready for our Water Walk! My name is Mark and I'm the tour guide! On this day, you'll be in a journey around the water cycle. From sun to cloud, to rain to air and all the way back. It is sure to be a bumpy ride. You'll learn some watery whizz kicks for 5 H₂O only, including gases, light and even ice! Are you ready for one watery rollercoaster? Buckle up!

Anyway! The bright sun is beaming! Can you feel the constant heat on your skin or should I say foamy water? Yes! That's thermal! That's pinpoint or our needs! You are liquid sleepwalking around in a river, glistening on the sea or calming crossing a river. In fact, a whopping fifteen billion gallons of water are drunk every month and a mind-boggling 97% of the earth is covered in water, thanks to the water cycle and also water molecules like us.

Emmanuel liked writing a non-fiction explanation in a more informal and fun tone. He liked being expressive and liked writing about lots of different topics.

Luna from 3S wrote a retelling of Black Rock.

The Secret of the deep sea.

Years ago, far away from land there lived a sea monster. The sea monster was called Terror and she was a mermaid princess. She had long long seaweed hair and sharp claws. Terror was scaley green with a purple tail. Everything was fair when Terror played. Terror had a pet Murkitty called Sandy and she had a cat head and a mermaid tail. Terror was next in line to be Queen because she was extremely popular in the kingdom.

Meanwhile on land, before the moon rose, a fog rose up. The fog was thick. The fog grew thicker. The fog was the thickest they had ever seen. Soon, a boat turned menacing. Splat! Sploosh! Thud! A young girl who had snuck onto the boat suddenly vanished into the sea unnoticed. "This is terrible" thought Lucy! The wild waves were attacking the hard craggy rock above the surface.

A brilliant start to her story! I wonder what will happen to Lucy and Terror next!

Kyla from 6P wrote a science fiction story.

I escaped out of the there a flew away. My heart was beating more than normal. I felt my pain go away as my cuts and bruises began to vanish. As I looked down on what used to be my home, tears fell down my face. The population had gone down, part of the city was destroyed by the explosion and I now had powers pumping through my veins. The world could never be what it was. Moving on, is the future. My future. Everyone's future....

What an intriguing ending to her story! I thoroughly recommend you reading the whole of Kyla's narrative. I was gripped from start to finish.



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Outstanding writing from our pupils at St Joseph's.

Cara from 5S wrote an adventure story based in the Amazon Rainforest.

As the sun began to rise. Ollie woke up. It was an amazing day, the sky was blue and the trees were emerald green. Olle went down to the river and sat there for a few minutes, his feet dangling in the river. Eventually, the others woke up saw Ollie sitting next to the river. "Finally! You're awake! I have got some pineapple and berries for us to eat. I just washed them in the river." Ollie announced. He placed the last berry on a banana leaf. They all devoured the fruit and felt wide awake. Now it was time to put their plan into action. The brazilian sun was a hot as a burner. Ollie began carrying a mountain of twigs and logs. Boom! Crash! Bang!

Cara liked use her own imagination of the Amazon Rainforest to keep her reader interested. She enjoys writing about places far from home!

Maggie from 1S wrote a diary entry on the Great Fire of London.

Thursday 6th September 1666.

By the end of the day, I arrived at the River Thames. I dived into the shiny,cold and glimmering water because I was bursting from the really hot fire. I was even choking on the fire. When I jumped into the refreshing water, I felt happy that I got to rest.

Maggie has used some exciting vocabulary to describe the River Thames! I felt like I was there!

Oscar from 20 wrote a diary entry on the Great Fire of London.

Boom! Woof! Whoosh! The loud fire spread slowly towards Thames Street where barrels full of gunpowder and gas exploded noisily. Today, the fire is more petrifying. The flame devoured the city and destroyed every house and even St Paul's Cathedral.

Oscars fire sounds very scary! I can feel the hot flames as I read it!

Marley Rose from 1E wrote a myth.

The crow began his long journey home through the windy and terrifying weather. Boom! The storm was tremendous. The crow shivered and turned into the storm. The storm was disgraceful and irate.

Marley- Rose said she liked writing about magical world and hoped to write more myths in the future.

Samuel from RH wrote an imaginative sentence describing the mountains. He said he finds writing fun!

