



St Mary's

Achieving more together



St. Mary's News

A message from the editor...

Autumn 1 Edition 2024



Hi everyone,

Welcome to a brand-new school year at St Mary's and the exciting first edition of St Mary's News! This issue is packed with fun and inspiration: from fascinating news articles and a mouth-watering recipe to exciting activities, a quiz to test your knowledge, brilliant examples of children's writing, and fantastic book recommendations. I hope you're settling into your new class and already making the most of everything this year has to offer! As we step into autumn, my favourite season, I can't help but enjoy the crisp air and the stunning colours of nature all around us. Animals are preparing for hibernation, and birds are beginning their long journey to warmer places. What's your favourite season, and why? Do you ever wonder about the fascinating changes each season brings? Dive in and explore!

Mrs Gill

Autumn Recipe by Mrs Lillywhite



Mrs Lillywhite's Favourite Autumn Spiced Biscuits

Ingredients

- 90 g slightly salted butter
- 150 g golden syrup
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 60 g golden granulated sugar
- 250 g plain white flour
- 1/4 tsp bicarbonate of soda (baking soda)
- 1/2 tsp fresh root ginger grated
- 1/2 tsp mixed spice
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- few drops red food colouring
- few drops brown food colouring
- few drops green food colouring
- 1/2 small orange zest

Equipment

- Weighing scales
- Measuring spoons
- 3 mixing bowls
- Silicone spatula
- Rolling pin
- Biscuit cutters – any shape will do but leaves look great!
- Nonstick baking sheet
- Parchment/baking paper
- Wire cooling rack



Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 180C (160C fan, 350F)
2. Put the butter, golden syrup, salt and sugar in a microwave-safe bowl.
3. Heat for 60 seconds on full power.
4. Stir well (careful, it can be very, very hot).
5. Heat in one or two more 30 second blasts until most of the sugar is dissolved. It's ok if it's still a little grainy.
6. Add the flour and bicarbonate of soda. Fold through.
7. Allow to cool until safe to handle.
8. Divide the dough into three equal balls.
9. Make a thumbprint in each, then add the ginger to one, the mixed spice to another, and the cinnamon and orange zest to the third.
10. Add the colours too, one per ball. You could add red with mixed spice, green with ginger and brown with cinnamon, but you can go with any combination you like!

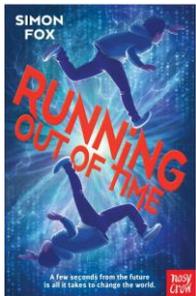
11. Knead each ball in your hands until you have an even distribution of colour and spice.
12. Cover the dough with cling film and chill for 15 minutes.
13. Roll each ball of dough out thinly - about 3mm. Use your cutters to cut out as many shapes as you can, or you could use a blunt knife to cut out the shapes of autumn leaves – be careful!
14. Place your biscuits on a baking sheet lined with baking paper.
15. Bake the biscuits for approx. 10 minutes each until just browning at the edges.
16. I bake mine over a few batches. Cool your cookies on the tray for a few minutes until they firm up, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely
17. Eat and enjoy!

This Edition's Book Recommendations:

Year 6

Running Out of Time

Simon Fox



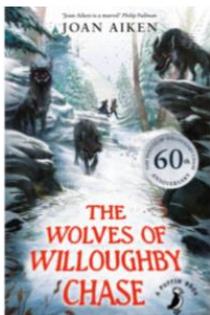
A thrilling, unputdownable debut, with extraordinary twists and incredible action, from an incredible new voice in children's fiction. When Alex and his father are forced to flee their home to escape a brutal government, they begin a life-threatening journey across Europe. But when they are separated before they can reach Britain, Alex finds himself alone, with only his extraordinary gift to keep him alive.

Perfect for fans of Alex Rider, Artemis Fowl, and Inception, Running out of Time is an ingenious, high-concept thriller with a twist that you won't believe.

Year 5

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase

Joan Aiken



This haunting story has earned its place as a true classic for Year 5.

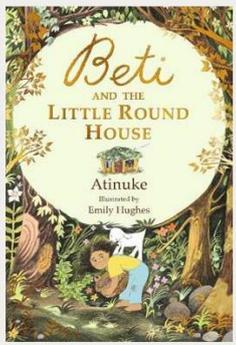
The story is set in an alternative Victorian England, one where wolves roam freely around the land and are a dangerous threat to humans. Cousins Sylvia and Bonnie are being looked after by a new and highly unpleasant governess called Miss Slightcarp. With dangers at every turn, the girls have to pool their resources and keep their eyes wide open to escape to safety.

Truly exciting with tunnels and old houses and secret places, this classic story book is just as thrilling for today's children as it was when first published decades ago.

Year 4

Beti and the Little Round House

Author: Atinuke **Illustrator:** Emily Hughes **Publisher:** Walker

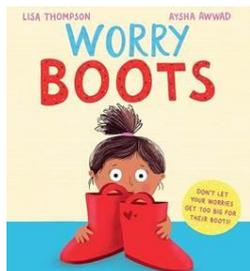


In a little round house in the green woods under the mountains, Beti lives with her Mam, Tad and baby brother Jac. She is adventurous, curious and determined, and loves exploring the beautiful nature that surrounds her woodland home. Accompanied by a community of her loving family, diverse friends, kind neighbours, and a mischievous baby goat named Naughty, Beti embarks on four stand-alone, mini adventures – one for each season. Combining Atinuke’s excellence in traditional storytelling and Hughes’s exceptional illustrations, this is a wonderful choice for an independent read. It would also be an excellent book to read over a few sessions with a class or as a revisited bedtime story.

Year 3

Worry Boots

Author: Lisa Thompson **Illustrator:** Aysha Awwad



Publisher: Scholastic

It’s Connie’s first day of school and she’s decided to wear her shiny, new red boots.

As she and Mum head to the bus stop, she notices something strange and lumpy in her boot. What if it’s a terrifying T-Rex? She can’t possibly go to school with a dinosaur in her boot - everyone will stare at her. Mum reassures Connie and all of a sudden, the funny feeling vanishes.

Aysha Awwad’s beautiful, inclusive illustrations brilliantly depict how Connie's imagination is running wild, helping children to really visualise the worries she is having. A funny, reassuring story about dealing with nerves and worry.

Ansten

Wednesday 9th October 2024

Can I write a Stone Age report?

Introduction
The Stone Age started in 2.5 million BC and ended in 2,500 BC. That was a lot of time between 2.5 million BC and 2,500 BC so they split it up into three periods of time. These periods were called the Palaeolithic, the Mesolithic and the Neolithic. The Palaeolithic was the Early period, the Mesolithic was the Middle period and the Neolithic was the Last period of time.

Tools and weapons
During the Stone Age people were called hunter-gatherers and they used arrowheads, spearheads and also to hunt their food. They made arrowheads and spearheads out of flint and a hammer stone. Or if you wanted to make it hard made, you would use flint or not a hammer stone for knapping. Knapping means you have to strike the flint. The flint's tequic produced slates but the edges of the slates were very sharp. These slates could then be shaped and sharpened into arrowheads or spearheads. Great technical vocabulary

hammer

Technique products

homes and shelters

In the Palaeolithic (Early period), people lived in caves but they were quickly they moved to open places. People in the Palaeolithic and the Mesolithic were very busy and they had to carry their tools and food over long distances. The houses in the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic were made out of stone, flint and animal skins. People in the Neolithic (Last period) were very busy and they found out they had enough wood to build houses made of logs and weave today. Except they were not made out of the same material. I asked they were made of straw, willow and manure. People lived in settlements so there were groups around their houses and shelters.

Great way of writing this part

Knowledge

Food and cooking

During the palaeolithic and mesolithic, people relied on animals and plants for meat and fruits. People had to keep sharpening their weapons so they had good for a while. Willow from just one manure started to grow crops, vegetables and grains. People started to grow their own food instead of just spending most of their time

Thursday 10th October 2024 @ music lesson

Can I write a descriptive dragon story?

The sun rose early in the morning, showering the Earth with it's radiance. Ewan awoke and got prepared for the day ahead of him. Today, he was on soldier patrol around the gardens of Basing House. Ewan slipped his sword into it's pouch, grabbing a slice of bread to eat on the way. Crawling around the grounds, he took a single step, staring in awe at the flowers recent to bloom. When he reached his destination, he stood on guard, occasionally shouting at the pedestrians passing not to get too close to the plants. These were specially made for the legendary Poulak family. Ewan moved to the next station, and repeated his daily schedule.

Not long after that, the flowers started to shrivel up and die. The only sounds you could hear was the thunder and rain rumbling and... the sound of armour jingling, boots clashing and rumours spreading. The tower started to shudder and shake. What was going on?

As mysteriously as they started, suddenly, the thundering footsteps stopped. The sky turned from slightly cloudy to a pepper-red apocalypse. Just then, a massive fire came crashing in through the splintered gates. Their commander, who was leading them, yelled "charge". The Roundheads caused chaos. Frantically, we tried to keep them back but they were just too strong. A bird appeared, high up in the air. But the bird grew every second and roared.

It was not a bird. Instead, it was a beast beyond any comparison. The monster burst through the clouds, a twilight-grey creature with a glowing turquoise light under it's scales. Panic and tension rose in the air, everyone gasping at this horrid, death-depping beast. As the dragon drew closer, it exhaled an almighty puff

of electric steam. No weapon, not even our immense catapult could compare to it. People tried to hide, to find shelter, but no where our sage Sully, many people died and lost their lives in the Siege of Basing House.

Before that day, Basing House had never seen a worse day. Ewan hid behind a shield, avoiding all of the conflict. He had a plan, though he was going to leap out, a surprise attack on their leader. But Ewan couldn't find any right time. The sounds of children crying and screaming grew louder and louder. It was deepening.

The next thing that happened was very peculiar. With the Roundheads' fire and the dragons' steam, it created a cobalt-purple hurricane. It whizzed and whirled, destroying everything in it's path. Paralyzed with terror, Ewan froze, his heart throbbing like flames of fire. He stared at the grotesque view, knowing he could do something. And so he did.

Mitchell

Monday 7th October 2024

Can I draft a descriptive dragon story?

As I sat up in the dark room, I came out of bed and got my nightgown and my slippers ready for me. I went outside and got the milk, morning breeze. Then, all of a sudden, I heard something incredibly loud. I heard a creaking noise. The boys and myself went to investigate. I went to the long that was and noticed the water ready for bottles. I got a book and put it on a very nice and it was not of. I was so unbelievably loud that I didn't hear my own voice (anything).

COMING
SPEAKING
SEE
ENERGY

As I sat up in the dark room, I came out of bed and got my nightgown and my slippers ready for me. I went outside and got the milk, morning breeze. Then, all of a sudden, I heard something incredibly loud. I heard a creaking noise. The boys and myself went to investigate. I went to the long that was and noticed the water ready for bottles. I got a book and put it on a very nice and it was not of. I was so unbelievably loud that I didn't hear my own voice (anything).

We ran away and held every single soldier and they started to find the dragon down below but they couldn't find it. We did then cross that the dragon was up above. The soldiers who saw the dragon and they asked you to come to kill the dragon. As he surprised down, everyone was in a fright but we knew the only way we could survive was to kill the dragon. So we reached the weapon and fired.

Make more clear

We had let the dragon go, it was not that mean of the end. The dragon was very angry of the hill and once it reached the top of the hill it got into a position. He used his wings to get past of the soldiers and he was very quick. He had the dragon did something incredibly loud and it was very loud. The dragon destroyed the whole of Basing House. It was that Basing House is destroyed, we don't have anything to kill the mysterious dragon. So we ran away and never saw the ruins of Basing House again. (The dragon was not seen for 5 years later) Today I decided to see all the ruins of Basing House. I decided to get there. The dragon had webbed feet and wings with them.

something walking
Maybe reached nests
sivery breath

White Class

18.9.24

Wednesday
Can I write a diary entry using adjectives and adverbs?



Dear Percy
OO a Faint
OO a friendly
OO a still river
OO a big bridge
FEEL Shocked
I saw a still river, there were 5555 5555 hanging



Dickens

Thon Paulet*

Thursday 12th September

Can I write about Thon Paulet?

Name: Thon Paulet
Date of birth: 1598
Place of birth: Basing House

Charles

Their life and family

Thon Paulet had 3 wives and 8 kids. His first kid was Charles. He became king and started the Civil war. He had 7 other kids. He lived to the age of 71. Before he died, he was taken prisoner for 6 years during last siege out of 3.

Legacy

* He was a wealthy nobleman, living in Basing House. He was a kind and compassionate man, helping the gunners during the Civil war. After he was taken prisoner, he went on to live at Longfield and to improve his farming skills.

Other facts

After being imprisoned he was still kind and compassionate even though his house was destroyed. He had a son called Charles who became king. He was very selfish and taxed his people all the time. King Charles started the Civil war because the parliamentarians wanted to limit his powers. His house had 3 sieges. 2 survived I didn't.

Paulet

Introduction

This explanation text will explain the wonders of the Volcanoes: What are Volcanoes, How are they formed, How they erupt, The Five layers of Earth, Fun Facts and a Glossary. Volcanoes are very dangerous. Over the past 300 years Volcanoes have killed over 250,000 innocent people. due to the Volcano and the Natural Disasters it caused.

What are Volcanoes?

Volcanoes are vents that directly connects magma to the surface of Earth. It is also described as a mountain or hill. There are many types of Volcanoes: Dormant, Active, Shield and many more. Volcano's matter is molten rock that have cooled (Magma). Magma erupts out of the main vent, when the magma is out of the Earth's surface it turns into the lava we know today.

The Five Layers of Earth

The Earth has Five Layers: Crust, Lower Mantle, Upper Mantle, Inner Core, Outer Core. Crust: The Earth's rocky outer layer (called the Crust) is the thinnest layer out of all of them. There are two types of Crust. Continental Crust forms most land, and Oceanic Crust that lies below the seas.



Upper Mantle: The rock in the Upper Mantle is really hot and can slowly move like a liquid. It also contains a lot of the metal magnesium. Outer Core: This part of the Earth's core is made of the metals, Iron and nickel. It is also liquid, unlike the solid inner core.

Lower Mantle: This layer Earth is made of hot, solid rock. Like the Upper Mantle, the rock is rich in the metal magnesium. Inner Core: The Earth's centre is a hot, solid ball made of Iron and nickel.

How are Volcanoes formed?

Volcanoes are formed when magma finds a way to escape the ground. After a few days the magma would have cooled and hardened. Solid rock is now made, so if we do this a few times we end up with a big hill full of molten rock, which is also known as a volcano.

Volcano Fun Facts?

20% of volcanoes are underwater. 10% of active volcanoes are in Japan. Youngest volcanoes is 75 years old. Mount Lea erupted 33 times. The word "Volcano" comes from the Roman God Fire.

Glossary: The five layers are, Inner Core, Outer Core, Upper Mantle, Lower Mantle and the Crust. Dormant Volcano: A volcano that has not erupted in years. Extinct: Was a volcano but will never erupt again. Active: Has potential to erupt at any time. Composite: Are very violent eruptions. Shield: Are gentle and weak eruptions.

Russell Class

EXTREME VOLCANOES

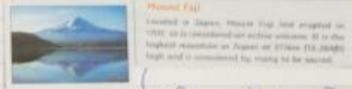
How do volcanoes happen?

Volcanoes are caused when tectonic plates move or either pull apart from each other. Tectonic plates cover the earth's surface and split the crust (the earth's outer layer) into pieces, just like a big jigsaw puzzle.

Firstly, beneath the earth's surface, is a layer, hot layer of melted rock which is called magma. The magma underneath the volcano prepares to rise up. As magma rises, it goes through a main vent. After magma erupts from the volcano, ash clouds form.



(Lava forming into Obsidian)



(Famous Volcano)

Magma & Lava Under the ground, magma lives in somewhere called a magma chamber. When it is time for the magma eruption, it will be out of the volcano it has erupted from and then it will be called lava. When lava has cooled, it will be called Obsidian. (Obsidian is a type of crystal)

Pictures of volcanic eruptions



? What is a Volcano? ?

A volcano is an opening of the earth's crust. A volcano is connected to the middle of the earth. As magma is located to the centre of the earth, under the earth's surface, it lives in a magma chamber where rock melts. But never jump in a volcano because the temperature in a volcano is an extremely high temperature. It's probably about 1,500-2,500°C.

Ash Clouds

Ash clouds are grey clouds formed after magma erupts from the volcano it has erupted.

Davies Class

Volcanoes!!!

Famous volcanoes!!!

OPENING

A massive beautiful rock of just a volcano set with its pluming ash clouds covering earth ininky muds. Its a top of boiling bubbling lava with heat blasting off of its various rips. Its a deadly hill of rock. But the question remains, how do these magnificent beasts work and submerge cities all in under a day?



In the world, there are many volcanoes, some active, some dormant and some extinct. However, some are famous like the smallest one or the BIGGEST one. But have you ever heard of mount saint helens or mount pyri? All volcanoes work like the same but some go on for ages. One in particular covered the whole city of Pompeii and others as well.

What volcanoes are?

Volcanoes are a large funnel or tube that is a natural occurrence. Some are shaped like mountains some more like dips in a gravel pit. Volcanoes are named after the roman god Vulcan, he was believed to control how often they erupted, so the romans gave him offerings to presumably keep him from making the volcanoes erupt.

Did you know?

That Mt. St Helens is 9,677 feet tall.

In the U.K, we have no active or dormant volcanoes, as all thirty six are extinct. If you live in the U.K you most really have to worry about natural disasters much (well except floods of course.)

U.K volcanoes!



by Joanna

Nightingale Class

Geography in the News!



Is Mount Everest getting taller?

The tallest mountain in the world, Mount Everest, is unlikely to be giving up that title any time soon.

According to new research, the huge mountain has effectively 'grown' over the last 89,000 years - by as much as 15-50m - and it's increasing every year,

Everest lies on the border of Nepal and Tibet in the Himalayan mountain range. The study, carried out by scientists at University College London, reveals nearby rivers are pushing it upwards little by little. The mountain lies amidst the harsh environment of the Himalayas and only experienced climbers with specialist guides and expensive equipment are able to reach the summit. But around 75 kilometres from the base of the mountain, there is a river network carving through the land creating a deep gorge.

Tonnes of rock and soil is eroded away, causing pressure from beneath the Earth's mantle (a thick layer of mineral rock under the Earth's crust), pushing the mountain upwards. As the huge amount of sediment has been moved away, the land has become lighter and the Earth's crust has pushed up slowly, leading to Everest's growth spurt - it's a process called isostatic rebound, write the study's authors.

Lead author of the study, Dr Xu Han, said: "The changing height of Mount Everest really highlights the dynamic nature of the Earth's surface." "The interaction between the erosion of the Arun River and the upward pressure of the Earth's mantle gives Mount Everest a boost, pushing it up higher than it would otherwise be."

Co-author, PhD student Adam Smith, of UCL Earth Sciences, said: "Mount Everest is a remarkable mountain of myth and legend and it's still growing." The team say they can monitor the mountain growing by about two millimetres a year using GPS (Global Positioning System) instruments, which use satellite imagery.

Mount Everest has been recorded at 8,849m high, but who knows how tall it will be 20 years from now?

Teacher Talk by Mr Rundle

One of my earliest memories was learning to ride my bike. I don't remember much about being a child but the day I learnt to ride my bike is one of them. The stabilisers came off. My Dad had been jogging along behind me holding the saddle. That's what I thought. He had actually let go and I was on my own, riding free.

That afternoon I cycled round and round on the lawn. I did circles. I did figure of eights. It was bliss. Through the years the bikes got bigger, as I got bigger.

Aged 8, I had a Raleigh Mustang which had 5 gears. This was the bike I started to use to ride off road a bit when we used to walk the dog. Yorkshire, where I grew up, is not like Hampshire. There are hills and there are rocks that stick up out of the ground. No gentle slopes, no smooth fields. It was great fun.



Aged 11 we visited the local bike shop for my birthday and bought a Giant Acapulco. It was black and had 21 gears, no suspension though.

Through my teenage years I used to cycle most evenings after school. Friday nights I would listen to Radio 1 and take different parts of my bike to pieces to see how they worked. Saturday mornings I would visit the local bike shop to ask for help putting it back together. That was how I got my first ever job. I worked from 9am till 6pm and was paid £10 a day! I learnt loads and now fix my own bikes and my children's. I tried a couple of mountain bike races but did not enjoy them, I think coming last probably added to my dislike of them! Riding on my own or with friends meant I could imagine being an Olympic cyclist. Doing a race showed me that I needed even more imagination!

Aged 16, my dad and I cycled from the West coast of England to the East coast of England



When I left home and went to university, it was in the Lake District. Mountain biking here was epic. I also worked in a bike shop while I was a student.



I moved to London once I had finished my degree, I trained to be a teacher. The place I trained was 5 miles away from where I lived, so I used to cycle 10 miles a day to do my studies. I think I must have smelt pretty bad too!

Once I was a teacher, I could buy myself a really expensive, light weight and fast bike, which I still have. I used this to cycle to work and round London with my friends. I also had my mountain bike and used to go mountain biking at weekend with my friends at a place called Peaslake. It was great but not as good as the Lake District!

Once I got married and had children I had a pause in the cycling. But once my children got old enough, I could share my joy of cycling with them and sometimes we still go for family bike rides. I am now trying to cycle to work as often as I can as well. Some days are a bit wet though!

My son and I are planning on cycling the coast to coast when he is 16 years old, just like I did with my Dad. Hopefully I will be fit enough to manage.
Where will your cycling take you?



Something to keep you busy...

Autumn Quiz

1. Why do leaves on trees change colour in the Autumn?
2. Hedgehogs start to hibernate in Autumn, but what is a baby hedgehog called?
a) Hogling b) Hoglet c) Hedgekit

3. Which of the following is an acorn?



4. What is the Autumn equinox?
5. Which farming activity traditionally takes place in the Autumn?
6. Pumpkins are a fruit, true or false?
7. Which of the following is a Muntjac Deer?



8. Which of these birds migrates in Autumn?
a) Swallow b) Robin c) Cuckoo
9. Why do some animals collect and store food in the autumn?
10. When does Autumn finish in the Northern hemisphere?
a) End of November b) End of September c) End of January

ANSWERS ON THE LAST PAGE

Answers

1. Trees reduce the production of chlorophyll which is green, so the leaves appear red or orange as they prepare for winter

2. B) Hoglet

3.



4. The Autumn equinox is when day and night is of equal length, usually around the 20th September

5. Harvest

6. Pumpkins are a fruit

7.



8. A) Swallow

9. To prepare for hibernation

10. A) End of November