



THE SOHO SCOOP

News and Views from Soho Parish



Headline

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring term. We are delighted that we will be able to welcome back all pupils on March 8th to in-person learning.

The week beginning March 8th will be Art week and the week after will be Book week. We hope that, by starting the term with a celebration of art and literature, we will give the children a joyful return to 'real school'. See below for more information.

In addition, staff will be working hard over those first two weeks in school to assess the children in maths and English so that they can give you a full picture of your child's progress by our parent-teacher meetings, which will be held on the afternoon of March 31st and another evening date TBC.

We are currently reviewing our Risk Assessment in preparation for full opening on March 8th and will share this with you before then. Staff are now testing for Covid at home (with lateral flow devices) twice a week, which gives an added layer of protection for the whole community. At present, we have not been informed of plans to test primary age children. It is now recommended that staff wear face coverings in common areas in primary school, but we have been doing this all along, so there will be no major changes for us from the risk assessment in place in the Autumn term.

The start and end of the day will be staggered, as in Autumn:

Start of day

Red door Archer Street	Gate, Great Windmill Street	Fire Escape, Y4
Y3 8:50	Y6 8:50	Y4 8:50
Y2 8:55	Y5 8:55	
Y1 9:00	Reception 9:00	

End of day

Red door Archer Street	Gate, Great Windmill Street	Fire Escape, Y4
Y1 3.15	Reception 3.15	Y4 3.25
Y2 3.20	Y5 3.25	
Y3 3.25	Y6 3.25	

Returning from abroad

If you have been abroad during the lockdown, please make sure you follow the government guidelines on self-isolation / quarantine when you return. In order to complete your self-isolation by the start of term, you will need to be back in the UK today - Friday 26th February. If you will have trouble returning by that date please contact the office.

Bubbles

On their return, the children will still be taught in class bubbles and will not mix with other classes. During the lockdown, we have maintained class bubbles and key worker groups have not mixed. The bubble system will be kept under review as the impacts of the vaccine on the national health picture become clearer.

Before and after school club

We will shortly send out 'expression of interest' forms for parents who would like their children to attend before or after school club in the Summer term. If there is enough uptake, we may be able to offer after school activities either maintaining class bubble groups or with some limited mixing between bubbles, dependent on the summer term risk assessment and national health picture.

We would encourage all parents to consider signing up for some after school provision as the more pupils we have the more varied activities we can run. This will provide much needed physical activity and social opportunities for our children, who are likely to have experienced a very limiting lockdown in this respect.

Recruiting pupils now!

We are actively recruiting pupils for all year groups at present. Please let your friends with children know we are here! There was already 20% spare capacity in Westminster primary schools and we understand the pandemic has led to an estimated 20% of the population moving out of central London. Our reception cohort and next year's reception are likely to be particularly small, so we would appreciate parents spreading the word.

Despite this, we have taken on seven new pupils since September and we hope families old and new will have a chance to meet each other soon.

Fundraising

Due to the cancellation of the Food Feast, and the likelihood that it will be cancelled again in 2021, and other loss of income due to the pandemic, fundraising is needed more than ever. Any parents with great ideas to raise funds should please get in touch with the PTA or the office. We hope not to have to cut essential services such as Speech and Language, Educational Psychologist or Family Therapy in the forthcoming year, so we are looking for sponsors willing to make an investment in these and other important aspects of our

provision. In addition, every little helps, so if you can please do consider setting up a standing order with the PTA this year.

We appreciate some families will have found themselves facing hardship over the course of the pandemic so please don't feel under pressure to donate. In fact, if you are struggling, please contact us as we may be able to help you.

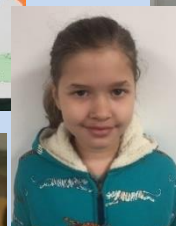
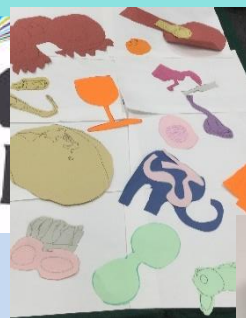
Get Ready for Art Week

The theme of this year's art week will be...

CONCEPTUAL ART

Another word for 'idea' is 'concept'. With conceptual art, the artist's idea (or concept) is the most important thing about the artwork. What it looks like doesn't matter as long as the idea comes across.

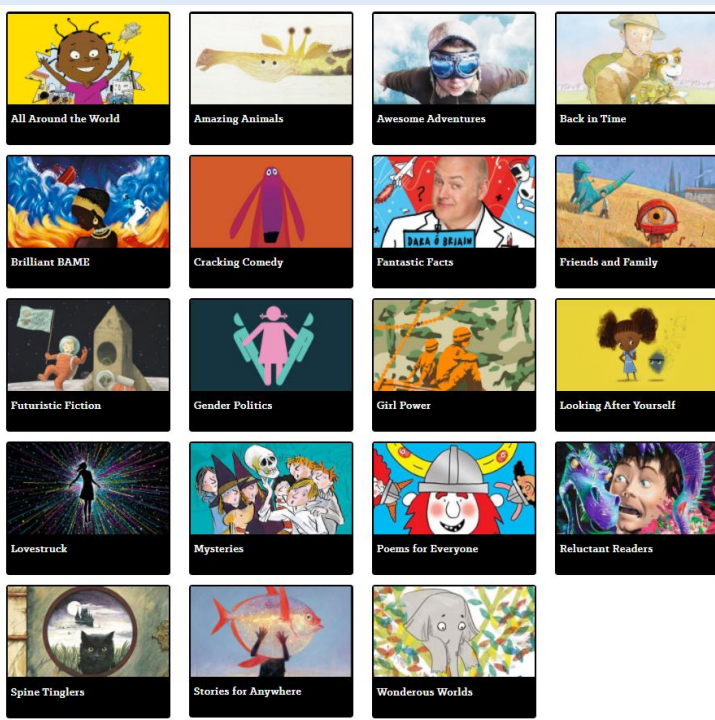
Our Student Art Council have been busy researching and trialling activities, to support the teachers to plan ideas for the week. Here is a sneak preview of some of the things they have been up to- using movement, found objects, photography and music.





From 15th – 19th March we will be celebrating Book Week at Soho Parish. Although it may look a little different this year, we will still be taking part in some of our favourite activities; such as ‘Drop Everything and Read’ and our traditional costume parades, so please do come to school dressed as your favourite book character on Friday 19th March. This is also the same day as Red Nose Day, so please bring your £1 donation to school. I wonder if you can incorporate a red nose into your character costume?

There will be many other exciting things happening throughout the week, including the chance to design your own dream school library and to listen to a range of authors share their stories virtually.



If you are looking for something new to read during book week, follow this link to some reading recommendations:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/reading-recommendations/>.