



ST MATTHEW ACADEMY

VIRTUAL SCHOOL NEWS

Issue 2

Friday 17th April 2020

Key points

- Look out for information on our new virtual learning platform coming soon
- Please read about our Crowd Fund appeal and share with friends, families and neighbours – find out more on page 2

A unique and unusual Easter

The title of this edition is the understatement of the year, but all over the country people are making the best of a situation that none of us have experienced before, and SMA is no exception! SMA – in both the literal and virtual sense – remains open for business. The children of our community's key workers continue to attend school and have been involved in some interesting and fun activities, from the toilet roll challenge (you will find out more later) and parachuting eggs, to feeding tortoises and creating giant chalk atlases – all fun activities you could perhaps try at home!



In our virtual school, as you will see, there are all sorts of tasks and challenges for you all to do to, as well as keep on top of your learning. Please remember to email your teachers with work – they all want to hear from you; keep your days structured and make sure you take your daily exercise.

Finally, please remember that above all else you must follow government advice to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives. We are all doing our bit against the coronavirus just by doing this.

All the very best for now and enjoy this edition of our Newsletter.

All of us at St Matthew Academy.

3 key things we have learnt this week...

1. RESILIENCE

This “new normal” is testing all of us in many ways. In the future we will remember how we responded to these challenges and overcame them.

Remember to **dig deep and be the best version of yourself.**

Life will get back to normal again—but for now we need to be patient.

2. REFLECTION

We would like to **pray for members of our school community** who may be suffering or worried about the current situation.

In particular we would like to pray for those parents and family members who are working within the NHS supporting all those who are sick.

3. COMPASSION

Never has there been a more important time to be **compassionate**. To be compassionate is to share someone's suffering and to feel sorrow for their situation and to try to do something about it. In these difficult times we are learning more than ever the importance in showing compassion to the people around us.

Can you help us to support *all* our pupils at home?

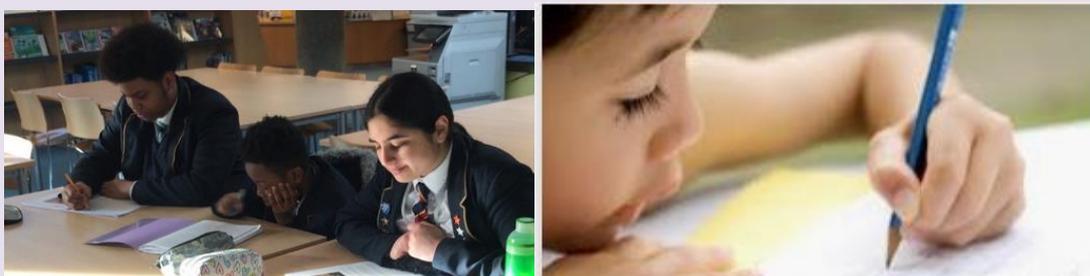


At SMA, we are committed to improving the life chances of ALL our pupils, and to use learning to open minds and ambitions. We want to continue to teach our pupils especially our most disadvantaged during this time of unease and the unknown. Sadly many of our pupils do not have any access at all to a screen or tablet to access the high quality home learning we have prepared online.

We are asking everyone in our community and beyond, if you can spare a small amount to donate towards our fund. The money will be well spent on tablets and other devices to help our most vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils to ensure they have the same chance of future success as ALL of our pupils.

SMA has started a [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com/f/computers-for-pupils?member=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_email%2Binvitesupporters) initiative to raise money for equipment that these pupils can use. Please go to the link below if you would like to make a contribution, which will allow all of our pupils to stay in touch with the community and carry on with their learning at home.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/computers-for-pupils?member=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_email%2Binvitesupporters



This week's challenges....



How did you get on with last week's challenges in Primary and Secondary?
Don't forget to send us pictures of you completing the challenges!
Will you take on the challenge? The winning entries will be entered into a prize draw.

TWO CHALLENGES THIS WEEK!

Challenge one this week is from the PE department. Send images of you completing these workouts to AKG@stmatthewacademy.co.uk by Thursday 23rd April at 12pm to be entered into the prize draw.



TWO CHALLENGES THIS WEEK!

Challenge two this week is from the Art department. Send images of your designs to jho@stmatthewacademy.co.uk by Thursday 23rd April at 12pm to be entered into the prize draw.

'Loo roll challenge'

Can you turn a loo roll in to a famous/original piece of artwork?
See below ideas for inspiration.



Secondary home learning roll of honour continued...

Well done to our top scorers in This is Language, Duolingo, Seneca and Lexia this week. Congrats to our photographer of the week too!

Will you make the roll of honour next week?



This Is Language Top Scorers:
French – Rofiat, Maria Y10 + Noa Y11
Spanish – Daniel Y10

Duolingo Top Scorers:
French – Bess + Daksh Y7
Spanish – Ruta Y11 + Jhett Y7

One incredible student, Rapolas Venckus, in Y7 came in 9th place in the French Nutty Tilez competition. He competed against almost 10,000 other students across the globe, typing target-language words quickly and accurately, in an attempt to be crowned Nutty champion! This really is a remarkable achievement.



Lexia Top Scorers:

Kyle Philip Y7 = 159 minutes
Cassel Chambers Y7 = 122 minutes
Lia Francis Y4 = 108 minutes

Photo of the week by Emilija in Y10:
'Isolation'

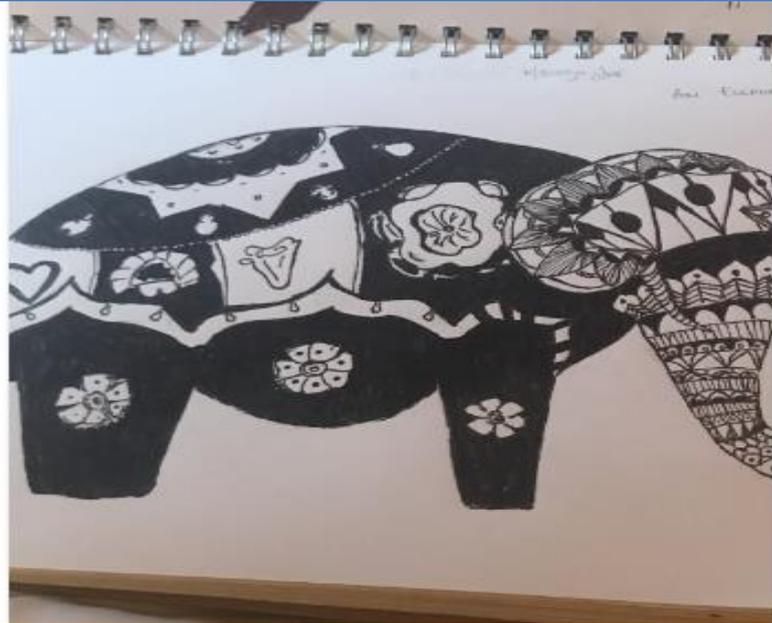


Seneca Top Scorers:

Moyin Y8 = 10 hours
Patis Y7 = 5 hours

Primary home learning roll of honour...

Hopefully you have had a restful Easter and taken your learning at a slower pace over the holidays. Don't forget to send pictures of your work to your teachers to get a shoutout!



Jasmine in Lions completed this amazing piece of Zentangle art.



Maxim in Cheetah's created this colourful piece of art – can you spot the rainbow?

Supporting our critical keyworkers' children...

Thank you to our wonderful staff who have gone above and beyond to support our critical keyworkers' children by providing these families with a crucial service and safe space over the Easter holidays.

St Matthew Academy @StMattAcad · Apr 6

Who is going to be today's #Jenga champion at SMA? #Lewisham



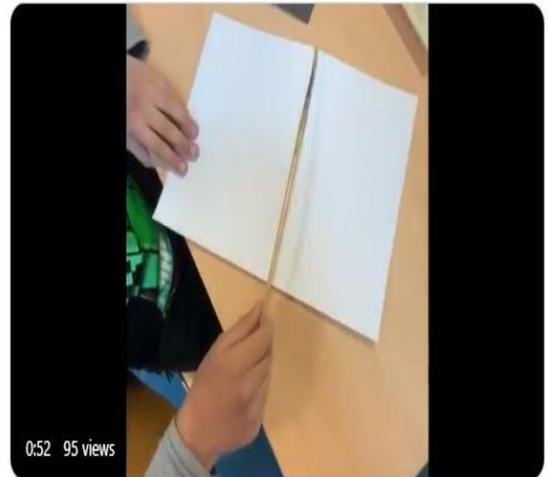
St Matthew Academy @StMattAcad · Apr 6

Easter cookies expertly baked at SMA today #Lewisham
#lettingpupilslightshine



St Matthew Academy @StMattAcad · Apr 3

The children retold the poem, "These are the Hands" by @MichaelRosenYes and wanted to send him their get well wishes. We hope this makes you smile Michael. #LettingPupilsLightShine #Poetry #Lewisham



0:52 95 views

St Matthew Academy @StMattAcad · Apr 3

The children at SMA are loving @thebodycoach every morning! Here's a little clip from today's workout. #LettingPupilsLightShine #Lewisham



1:10 125 views

Chaplaincy

Easter represents a new beginning and the most important new beginning in the Bible. There are many new beginnings in the Bible but none more important or significant than that which occurred during the Passover when Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised for our justification.

Archbishop John has recorded a reflection for Good Friday. It was intended to be used as the centre piece of a Collective Act of Worship at any time during the day, but especially in those schools remaining open on Good Friday. As we were unable to attend Mass on Good Friday or Easter, please click on the link to reflect on Archbishop Wilson's Easter message.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3AIW96TaFg&feature=youtu.be>



Several Parishes within the Archdiocese live-stream Mass each weekend. We have compiled a list of those that currently do so, along with links to each stream. Click [here](#) to view.

Externally to the Diocese, The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham offers a 12 noon Mass each day, whilst Church Services TV and MCN Media also offer Masses from around the country, and indeed, Europe.

Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic

O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain,
keeping your faith firm.
You, Salvation of the Roman People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge,
Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the
entreaties of we who are in trial, but
deliver us from every danger, O glorious
and blessed Virgin.

Amen.



**You can still attend Mass and
Spiritual Communion virtually!**

CAFOD Children's Liturgy

We are pleased to share that CAFOD are holding a Children's Liturgy of the Word in the form of a webinar, each Sunday between 10.00 - 10.15am. Click [here](#) to go to the CAFOD webinar and download Children's Prayer Resources.

You can also access Sunday's Gospel here <http://wednesdayword.org/> connecting home, school and parish.

Reading Corner...

Find out who has been reading what each week; get recommended reads; enter competitions and submit reviews.

Let's get SMA reading!

Don't forget to send us pictures of you or your family enjoying a good book – audio counts too!



Great news! SMA are proud to announce the launch of our new virtual book club!

Mr Blakemore and Ms Fields will email out all the instructions with links to the extracts to read after the holidays.

Everyone is invited to participate!

Staff Reading Recommendations This Week:

Mr Quigg is reading a novel by Leon Uris called 'Haj.'

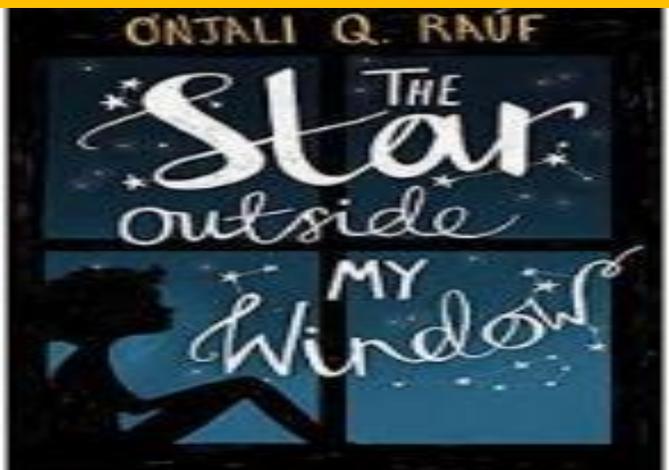
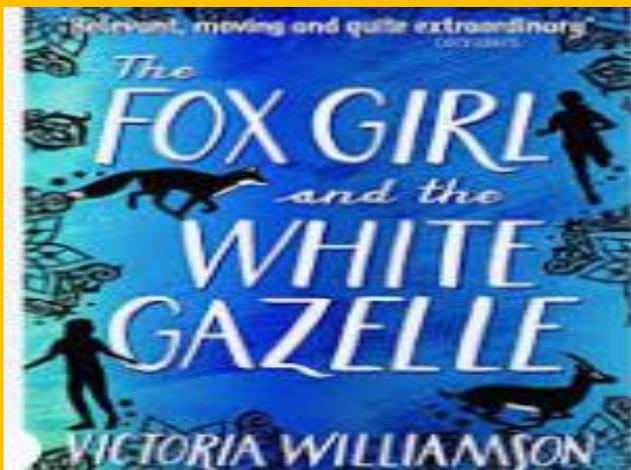
"It is based on the establishment of the Jewish state in Palestine in the 20th century, fascinating read and insight into the history of the region and its people. Leon Uris is one of my all-time favourite authors."

Secondary recommended read of the week:

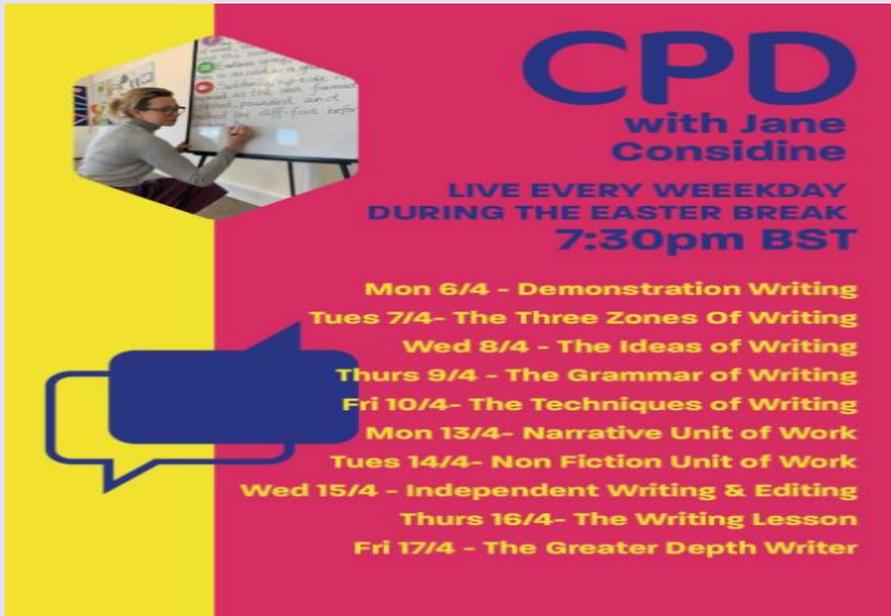
The Fox Girl and the White Gazelle by Victoria Williamson

Primary recommended read of the week:

The Star outside my window by Onjali Q. Rauf



What have the staff been up to during the Easter holidays?



CPD
with Jane Considine

LIVE EVERY WEEEKDAY
DURING THE EASTER BREAK
7:30pm BST

Mon 6/4 - Demonstration Writing
Tues 7/4 - The Three Zones Of Writing
Wed 8/4 - The Ideas of Writing
Thurs 9/4 - The Grammar of Writing
Fri 10/4 - The Techniques of Writing
Mon 13/4 - Narrative Unit of Work
Tues 14/4 - Non Fiction Unit of Work
Wed 15/4 - Independent Writing & Editing
Thurs 16/4 - The Writing Lesson
Fri 17/4 - The Greater Depth Writer

The poster features a photo of Jane Considine writing on a whiteboard. A blue speech bubble is overlaid on the left side of the poster.

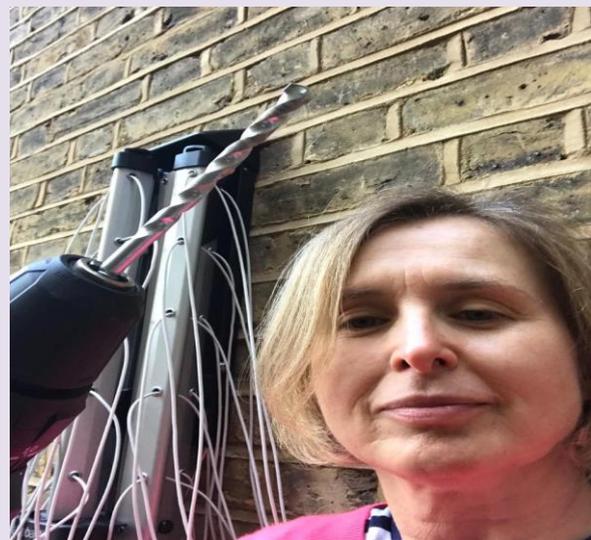
Ms Nwanokwai has been tuning into Jane Considine's (The Write Stuff) CPD writing training sessions available on youtube. <https://t.co/aLetUnf6Lh?amp=1>

Can you guess which teacher won the virtual staff quiz?

Weekly staff quiz #self isolation #lewisham



Ms Purslow has been busy doing some DIY! Just call her Ozy'handy'us!!!



Final Thoughts for the Week...

Thank you to our staff and parents for your support in making this difficult time as 'normal' as possible for our pupils. Please remember to check out our crowd fund appeal to raise money for computers and devices for pupils.

For more information about anything else, please visit:

SMA Website:
www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk

SMA Twitter page: @StMattAcad



Staying safe online

During the current lock down situation, it is probable that young people are spending more and more time online so it is important that as parents we are monitoring this activity to ensure they are staying safe. One of the most popular apps at this time is the houseparty app. Please see the link to a parent's guide to this app to ensure appropriate use and to ensure that you can keep your children safe online.

https://www.internetmatters.org/blog/2019/12/24/what-is-the-houseparty-app-what-parents-need-to-know/?utm_source=twitter_adcredits&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=staysafestayhome_houseparty

This is a great website with advice and guidance for parents and carers with children of all different ages. It has information on security settings for lots of different apps and information on how to report anything which might be a concern - vital support in these unprecedented times.

 **STAY AT HOME**

PROTECT THE NHS

 **save lives**