

St Joe's Journal

Message from the Head

It has been another fantastic half term with a wide variety of events and experiences across the key stages. The various sporting teams have been active and competing well including all year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 girl's futsal teams qualifying to compete in the Durham County finals next month. We have celebrated Chinese New Year, friendship week and held a sixth form taster and college experience day for year 11. We have also welcomed Sunderland University to work with key stage 5 art students and a legal team of professional lawyers speaking with key stage 5 law students to discuss opportunities for paralegal apprenticeships. Form tutors in years 7 – 10 have been reading a fiction novel over the past few months and now we are moving forwards with a non-fiction text for the second part of the academic year. It is wonderful to have such a vast array of opportunities for our students. On a different note, the second round of mock examinations have just begun for years 11 and 13 with these continuing after the half term break. I hope students take the opportunity for a well-earned rest but keep chipping away with their revision—good luck all!

Wishing a wonderful half term to all, Mr Mitchell.

Ethos reflection



St. Valentine's Day

On Monday 14th February we celebrated one of the most popular days in the liturgical calendar, St. Valentine's day. A day when we remember those in our lives who we love. A day when we celebrate the institution of marriage and we also get to show those who we love how much they mean to us.

St. Valentine was martyred on the 14th February for secretly performing marriages against the wish of the Roman Emperor. The Emperor wanted marriages to be arranged through ballet rather through love. Valentine believed that those who loved each other should be allowed the right to marry who they wish and in an act of deadly defiance, performed marriages for those he believed God had brought together. So this week, as we look at the cards, chocolates or flowers we exchanged on Valentine's Day, let's remember how lucky we are to be able to love those we wish and be grateful for those God has blessed each of us with and brought into our lives.

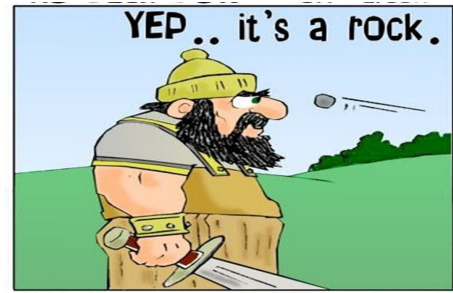
St. Paul teaches that at the end of time, only three things will remain 'faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love'. So this week, let us reflect upon those in our lives we love and those in our parishes, schools or communities who we could show more love too—neighbours, parishioners, family and friends. How can we bring Christ's eternal love to them?

Let us hold them all in our prayers this week. Amen and God bless.



Vision to see the impossible

Many of us may know the story of David and Goliath when David, the little Shepard boy, defeated the Giant Goliath thereby saving the people of Israel. Young David was never regarded as someone that stood a chance against this fearless professional warrior. David was not a warrior. He was a small, young, insignificant boy that held no social regard. He was simply a farmer's son that looked after smelly livestock.



Goliath was always known for his keen eye for detail.

How can this ridiculous story be true? It's equivalent to saying that a skilled professional Marshall Artist lost to a young untrained teenager that is not physically mature. Outrageous! Once again God tries to shock us with these over-the-top stories. He teaches us that what we see as impossible; He sees as possible. What we see as an impossibility he sees as a possibility. God teaches us that he sees the full picture when we can't. He knows the end result.

I find this story, along with many biblical stories, funny because God constantly uses the most insignificant people, the most impossible situations to consistently highlight the impossible to be possible. God constantly shows us that we can't see the final outcome of every situation. We are limited human beings that use our limited human faculties to make judgements on circumstances. Yes, although we are called to use our reasoning to make judgement calls, we must never forget that God holds the trump cards. Let us remember that all good things are possible when we are open to God's divine plan for our lives.

Top of the Faith pops!



This week I want to share one of my favourite contemporary modern Christian hits from the world renowned 'Zach Williams' called *Old Church Choir*. Today's song is an awesome song all about opening your heart to encounters with God and being thankful for the blessings in our lives. I hope you enjoy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOEviTLJOqo>



Social Action Challenge

Can you think of anyone in your family or local community who is lonely, isolated or vulnerable at this time? Lockdown is a hard time for us all, but even more so when you are apart from those you love.

This week I would like to challenge you to spend some time thinking about that person, praying for them and sending them a card/a letter/a message to let them know that you care for them and that you are here for them during lockdown. Sometimes it can be the smallest actions that we do that can make the biggest differences. Good luck and God bless.

History Homework Projects



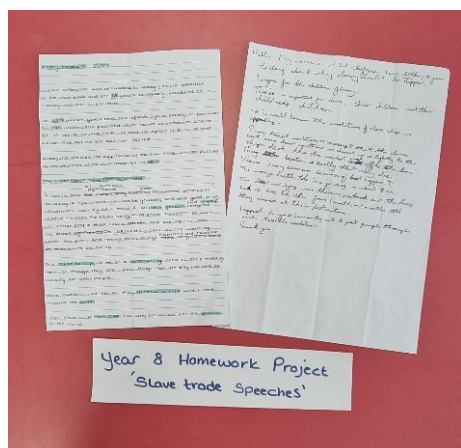
Last term, **Year 7** were learning about the Romans! Their homework project was based upon 'A journey through Rome'. They were able to create anything from a poster full of facts about Rome to something huge like Jessica's amazing colosseum! Jessica Heads, Charlie Cox and James Fegan all produced Colosseum creations of different sizes, from really big to really small. Kate Charlton and Anais Molloy made booklets telling us all about Rome; the buildings that can be found in their towns, the attractions to visit, the entertainment to watch, their religion and even the food you can enjoy in Rome!



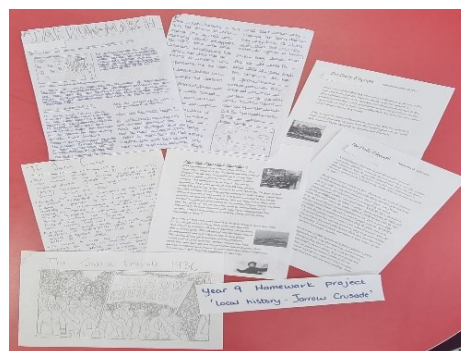
THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE



Last term, **Year 8** were learning about the Transatlantic slave trade! Their homework task was to write and deliver a speech to the class explaining why the slave trade should be abolished. Flynn Murphy and Ava Collier both gave fantastic, and very convincing, speeches from the point of view of William Wilberforce, a leading abolitionist of the time, along with some interesting facts about him too!



Last term, **Year 9** were learning about America in the Twentieth century! Their homework however was an independent, local history, research project looking into the Jarrow Crusade. There were lots of amazing creations, from booklets to newspaper articles and more. Ellen Hope, Erin Hewitt and Emily Booth all produced outstanding homework projects filled with information, facts and figures and some wonderful artwork!





The **ART** Department have been impressed with

Year 11 artists trying out Art & Design A Level on the 6th form taster day Friday 4th February 2022. Considering they didn't have long they produced some great sellotape sculpture.



In Miss Renwick's class Year 9 designed some amazing gargoyles that they will then create out of clay.



SPORTS SUCCESSES

The girls have been involved in a number of football and futsal events across the half term.

St. Joseph's hosted the Year 8, 9, 10, and 11 South Tyneside School Games Futsal tournaments, with our students winning all four events!

The Year 7 girls played in the South Tyneside Futsal tournament at Mortimer. With 6 teams in the competition, it was a great showcase of footballing talent. Our girls were amazing and a full effort to win every match to finish winners! They will join our Y8, 9, 10 & 11 teams in the Durham County finals next month. A clean sweep! Player of the tournament goes to Anais Molloy for her solid defending throughout.

Our Year 8 football squad travelled to Sheffield in January for the area finals of the EFL Cup in to battle it out against 9 other teams. The standard of the competition was exceptional and our squad went toe to toe with the best football teams in the North East. Unfortunately we were beaten in the semi-final by the eventual winners, Hull FC, but put up an excellent performance and one to be proud of.

The under 16 girl's football squad played beat Framwellgate 5-2 in the quarter-final of the County Cup. They will play Parkside in the semi final.

The under 14 girl's football squad played in the second round of the County Cup, with an impressive 8-1 victory over Whickham School. They will play Framwellgate in the quarter-finals.

Our Year 7 athletes attended the South Tyneside Sports Hall Athletics competition in early January. Both girls and boys teams were crowned champions and qualified to compete alongside our Year 8 teams in the Tyne and Wear finals. The squads performed brilliantly against strong competition, finishing 6th in the Year 8 girls, 5th in the Year 7 girls and Year 8 boys, and taking the bronze medal in the Year 7 boy's championships. Well done to all who took part!

A large number of our students were part of the cross country team that competed in the South Tyneside Championships in December. We had huge success with 28 students across the age groups finishing in qualifying places for the Durham County Finals which took place at Barnard Castle on Saturday 15th January 2022. Amongst these runners, our Year 7 boys, Year 8 & 9 boys, and girls all won the team events, with Sam Thompson, Emily Booth, and Mary Stobbs all finishing first place in their race. Mary Stobbs went on to qualify for a place in the Durham County squad at the Inter-County Championships. Well done all!



Y10 futsal team



EFL girls Cup in Sheffield

Our Sports Leaders have also been busy, being responsible for the running of the events in the Sports Hall athletics for both Primary and Secondary South Tyneside Championships and Tyne and Wear Finals.

In addition, our Sports Leaders ran a Sportability event for the local primary schools, giving opportunities for young students to try out new sporting activities.

Finally, some of our Year 9 students have begun their journey in the South Tyneside Leadership Academy, attending their first workshop at Boldon School this month. They will be tasked with setting up a new club in school for students to get involved in, so keep an eye out for this in the bulletin.



Sports leaders in action at the Sportability event.

SPORTS CLUBS

A reminder that we have several clubs that are run by outside agencies at our school.

We have a 'Get into Football' session, designed at providing an opportunity for young players who may have had little or no experience of football, to come and have a go! It is run by coaches from Hebburn Town Juniors FC and uses Futsal to develop new skills. It takes place in our Sportshall every Monday evening 3.30-4.30 pm. Introductory sessions are free.

NETT is a Table Tennis club that runs both Junior and Senior sessions on a Tuesday evening in our Main Hall. The session can be booked online and is open to U18's 6-7.30 pm (£5) and adults 7.30-9.00 pm (£8).

England Netball runs a 'Back to Netball' session in our Sportshall on a Thursday evening 6.00-7.00 pm. The session is aimed at helping adults get back to playing netball, and is a mixed ability session, with all welcome. Places can be booked through Fiona.holden@englandnetball.co.uk, at a cost of £4.40 per session.

Stagecoach Performing Arts group meet every Saturday morning at St, Joseph's Catholic Academy, offering sessions for all age groups. They offer an early Stages class (4-6 years) 9.30-11.00 am, Main Stages class (6-18 years) 10.00-1.00 pm, Further Stages (14+ years) 10.00-1.00 pm to attain their Level 3 Certificate in Performing Arts. Head to www.Stagecoach.co.uk/Southtyneside for more information.



Cross Country

Loving Library Time

The English department have started a cycle of library visits with Year 7 students this term. Whilst work continues behind the scenes to catalogue all the books using a new booking system, students have been making the most of the calm, quiet and spacious facilities to enjoy their own private reading. The sessions have allowed students to reflect on the texts they have chosen to read through a reading journal, challenging them to: recall specific details about the characters and settings the writer has created, engage with the characters beyond the page through fictional interviews, sequence and expand on the events of the story by creating a sequel or prequel to their text and many other activities that put a spotlight on the books they choose to read.

The students have welcomed the opportunity to utilize the library space and have made many positive comments about their experience this term.

"When I'm reading in the library I feel comforted and warm."

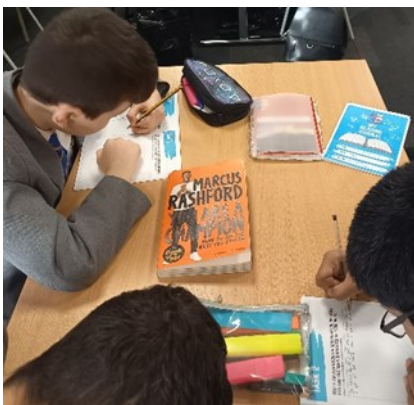
"The library has a different vibe to it than reading in a classroom or at home. It's quiet and relaxing."

"I like how the library is calming, relaxing and a great place to focus."

"It's so relaxing to read in a library full of lots of books. It brings comfort when reading."

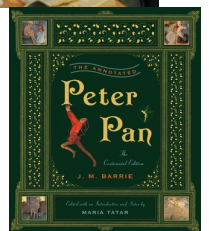
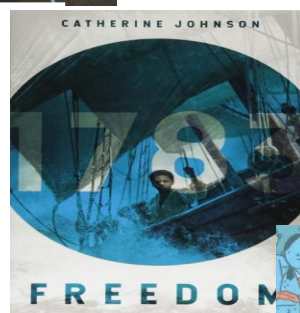
"It's very different reading in the library. There are no distractions."

With World Book Day just around the corner, it's great to see the enthusiasm for reading being shared by so many students. There will be further opportunities to access a 'reading haven' for those who like a quiet room to enjoy their book in the coming months, so watch this space.



Books for Year 7: Our recommendations

- Freedom (1783) by Catherine Johnson
- Artichoke Hearts by Sita Brahmachari
- Kick by Mitch Johnson
- Watership down by Richard Adams
- The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson
- The island at the end of everything by Kiran Hargrave
- The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken
- Robin Hood: Jet skis, Swamps & Smugglers by Robert Muchamore
- Peter Pan by JM Barrie
- The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper



Chinese New Year!

All the Year 7-10 Mandarin students celebrated Chinese New Year with Plate Painting and experience Lion Dance & Umbrella Dance. Meanwhile, all the students at St. Joseph's get to greet our Mandarin Teacher "gōng xi fā cái" which means "May luck and prosperity be bless upon you", and receive a red envelope with chocolate gold coins.

Chinese New Year, also known as the Lunar New Year, is the festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar and solar Chinese calendar. In Chinese and other East and Southeast Asian cultures, the festival is commonly referred to as the Spring Festival which lasts 15 days.

This year is the year of tiger. The tiger embodies courage and bravery, so the new year could symbolize resilience and strength — even in times of struggle!



Law Department Visit to Newcastle Law School

Mr. Mather, Head of Law and Politics, and the Year 13 Law students were privileged to take part in a revision session at Newcastle Law School, led by one of the university's academics, Beverley Smith. Beverley recapped the law on non-fatal offences against the person and the defence of consent linking these key areas of the A Level course to two practice scenario questions in which the students had to decide if the defendants were guilty or not guilty of any offences.

It was particularly interesting for the students to be informed about an up-to-date case example on body modification which took place recently and led to a rather surprising outcome! All the students present did themselves proud in taking a full part in the session, by answering questions posed by Beverley and also by asking questions about the law, the Law School and the courses available in Law at Newcastle University.

The session ended with a tour of the Law School and especially the Law Library, one of the very few libraries left in universities around the country dedicated to Law. The library weaves around many turns in the basement of the Law School and is a treasure



Student Journalist Corner

Holocaust Memorial Day

On the 3rd of February 2022, Year 9 had the incredible opportunity to meet a Holocaust survivor in order to educate and remember not only the liberation, but the horrors, that occurred inside WW2 concentration camps. The woman who bravely shared her story was called Eva Clarke, who was born on a coal train her mother had been forced to board to Mauthausen (a Nazi labour camp). The theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day was inspired by Eva Clarke's story, One Day. This theme message is important as Eva describes her one day as the day she was born, the day she was saved miraculously by a Jewish doctor also travelling to Mauthausen. Eva's mother Anka Bergman also survived many years of labour camps, starvation and giving birth to Eva and tried her best to educate others even up until the age of 96!

Meeting and hearing the stories from Holocaust survivors is such an amazing and rare experience and so memorable. Holocaust Memorial Day is on January 27th every year and focuses on educating others on the Holocaust and hearing and learning survivors' stories and stories of people who sadly did not make it. The theme of 'One Day' was to focus on how drastically things can change in 24 hours and how people's opinions, and people's lives can change so quickly. Some quotations from Jewish people during the Nazi ruling of Germany include *'One day my friend greeted me with an embrace the next she could not make eye contact'* this shows how fast public opinion changed in only one day.

Although there are now only a few survivors, they are so strong and we should be inspired and thankful that they are willing to share their stories. Eva Clarke and Anka Bergman have managed to educate and inspire so many people and for that I am so thankful. I hope that anyone who can does meet a survivor of the Holocaust because they are so inspirational and the knowledge and experiences they have to share are life changing.

By Katie Atkinson
Year 9 student



Eddie Jaku, the 'Happiest man on Earth'. Even though he literally went through hell, he never lost sight of what was important – kindness.

"In my mind, this is really the best revenge, and it is the only revenge I am interested in – to be the happiest man on Earth."

— Eddie Jaku, The Happiest Man on Earth

Survivors



Francine Christophe, survivor of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. At only 8, she saved the life of one of the prisoners who was in labour while at the camp. She gave the woman her chocolate, which her mother was saving for when Francine would become weak. Her small, rare act of kindness saved both mother and baby.

Student Journalist Corner

Humanising the Holocaust

The Holocaust, known as the Shoah to many Jewish people, is the name for the genocide of European Jews during World War II. Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its collaborators systematically murdered some six million Jews across German-occupied Europe, around two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population. Many of the victims were killed in concentration and extermination camps around Europe

Ella and I have been fortunate enough to recently participate in a virtual experience with The Holocaust Educational Trust, called the "Lessons from Auschwitz" project. We have had a vast change in perspective in terms of our own personal view of the Holocaust.

Through persecution, the Nazis dehumanized everyday people - men, women, and children - the Jewish community were initially ostracised/targeted by being forced to wear a yellow Star of David. In the camps they tattooed a number on the arms of Jewish inmates; forced them to cut their hair, and further removed their sense of identity by placing them in a uniform that looked like striped pyjamas. Other minority groups were targeted, such as Gypsy communities, disabled people, and homosexuals. They were also ostracised and placed into ghettos until the camps were completed, leading to the extermination of an estimated eleven million people in total. The six million Jewish victims were the largest proportion of this total.

The Nazi regime encouraged viewing these individuals as a collective and they were then able to get others to ostracise them and discriminate against them. Every single person involved in the Holocaust has a unique and individual story to tell, including the perpetrators. It is of vast importance that we learn from these mistakes documented in history. Throughout our experience, we have learnt that we must try to re-humanise the people involved and view the victims as individuals rather than a collective of numbers. Six million people is an impossible number to imagine – so we must focus on individual stories.

In one of the sessions we attended, we were lucky enough to hear from a survivor of the Holocaust, Manfred Goldberg. Manfred was able to survive selection in the camps – the process by which some people were automatically chosen to either live or die - due to lying about his age. He later became a slave to a guard at Stutthof camp which increased his chances of survival. From further research, we also discovered the case study of Eddie Jaku, author of "Happiest Man on Earth: The Beautiful Life of an Auschwitz Survivor". Eddie's main teaching was to search for the light moments in dark times which we believe is a key concept in restoring a person's humanity. As a result of this, we decided to rehumanise victims and survivors by including links below that contain individual's own experiences:

<https://youtu.be/PKkgO06bAZk>

<https://listverse.com/2014/05/16/10-inspiring-stories-of-true-love-from-the-holocaust/#>

https://www.ted.com/talks/eddie_jaku_a_holocaust_survivor_s_blueprint_for_happiness/transcript

In the present moment, it's important to reflect on previous mistakes to prevent future genocides.

Unfortunately over the past couple of years this hasn't been the case. Listening to the last wishes of remaining Holocaust survivors, it is vital for our generation to ensure we teach younger generations kindness and love rather than encouraging prejudice and discrimination.

The key thing we learned was that numbers are not names! The remaining and past survivors fear that their lessons will be forgotten. Through naming survivors and sharing their stories we allow something to exist and a legacy to remain. Stop dehumanisation, stop hating and, most importantly, learn the names of individuals to allow their legacies to continue. This might help prevent events like these from ever happening again. If you would like to learn more, please visit the Holocaust Educational Trust's website:

<https://www.het.org.uk/>

By

Ella and Hannah, Year 12.



Manny Goldberg and his friend Zigi Shipper, who he met when he was sent to Stutthof camp when they were 14. They were reunited decades later and met the Duchess of Cambridge in 2017.

Year 12 Next Steps

Year 12 Cambridge HE+ Programme

Every year a group of year 12 students participate in a programme run by Cambridge University where they attend various events to prepare them for the next stage of their academic study. On Friday 4th February, the group attended an event at Newcastle University. It was held in the grand King's Hall and gave the students a chance to experience university style lectures on a range of topics from medicine to psychology. They also were given campus tours and the chance to speak to current students about their university life. Looking forward, the next event is an overnight residential at a Cambridge University college in April which will be an amazing opportunity to visit this famous university.

Durham University Supported Progression

Another group of year 12 students participated in a Durham University Experience on Thursday 6th and Friday 7th January. Unfortunately, due to the timing, it had to be moved online but nonetheless the students still heard from experienced students, found out more about applying for university and some top tips about student life. We hope for some in person visits later on in the year.

Sunderland University First Choice

On Wednesday 26th January, a guest from Sunderland University came to St Joseph's to lead a session on university life. This session formed the first of a series of sessions students have to complete as part of the First Choice scheme. The students learnt more about course options and dispelled some myths around university, especially regarding finance. For those who then signed up for the scheme, a summer school awaits to get that true student life experience.



Puzzle Corner

Each edition you will find a new Numeracy puzzle.
The solutions will be provided in the next newsletter.

Valentines

Saint Valentine's Day falls on February 14th each year. Traditionally, it is a day on which people send Valentine's cards anonymously.

Four boys each sent a card to a different girl.

- Juan did not send a card to Katelyn
- Charles sent a card to either Zoe or Paige
- Zoe did not receive a card from Aaron or Lucas
- Neither Aaron nor Lucas sent a card to Gabriella
- Lucas would never send a card to Katelyn



Pair up the boys and girls!

Last edition's answer

Christmas!

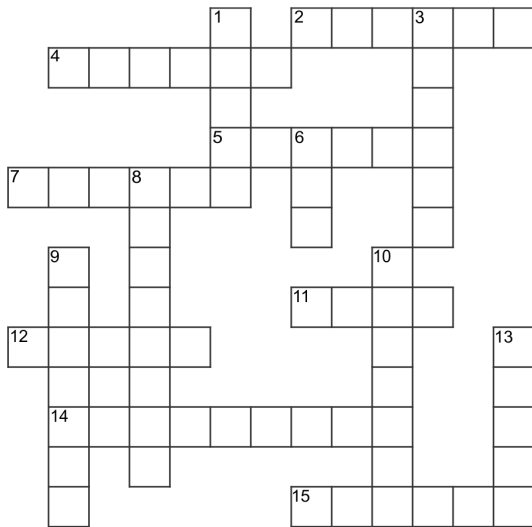
Santa = 6, Bulb = 8, Tree = 9

? = 864



Chinese New Year

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

2. He is credited with naming the years of the Chinese after animals.
4. Plant that brings happiness, wealth and longevity.
5. Chinese New Year is known as the _____ Festival.
7. Number of animals in the Chinese calendar.
11. If you find this in your dumpling, you will have a year of good luck.
12. What children receive in red envelopes if they have been good.
14. Fruit said to represent luck and prosperity.
15. Season in which Chinese New Year takes place.

DOWN

1. What must you clean to be ready for Chinese New Year?
3. Animal traditionally represented in the Chinese New Year's Day parade.
6. Color that is believed to drive away bad luck.
8. These are decorated, hung in temples, and carried during a parade.
9. Animal for the year 2017 in the Chinese calendar.
10. Number of days in the Chinese New Year celebration.
13. Type of calendar that the Chinese New Year is based on.

Poem of the day:

Thinking

By Walter D Wintle

If you think you are beaten, you are
If you think you dare not, you don't,
If you like to win, but you think you can't
It is almost certain you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you're lost
For out of the world we find,
Success begins with a fellow's will
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you are outclassed, you are
You've got to think high to rise,
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.

Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man,
But soon or late the man who wins
Is the man WHO THINKS HE CAN!

SPRING BREAK

U U V A F J Q T J E M F Z D L I Y R G X
Y T E V M R Z S K H D X T S N I H X J C
U U T B L O S S O M S H W W Q L R N Z N
T X S Q E E N T U L I P S S L M O Q J X
M U L T E H Z I E E S B U S H R A T B T
C S U N S H I N E X A E B P U D D L E S
W K A N K X M R R U I M B G O P T D I I
L S A E L J P X C A R O D Q J E R S U O
J Q R C D Y Y J R E P D J K S A I G B N
R A I N B O O T S T L X A W K W P I M S
D U G K D B G V A C A T I O N D H H A Y
B G A M E S K N B J N A L I R P H X H O
H U H V B W B C J F E C D X B T C P E W
J W J M Z Y S T F R D U F S Y P P A E J
O S L E P I N G I N W J P F C P C M R
H A V P L Y M D H E M X B R E H F O Q Z
Y N Q T L H C V X N Y I F I N R M J T M
A N Z V L T E Y W D C W S N E B V L L M
W T N H F C V C P S Y K I G C O K M D R
C A I O Q S E B I P E Z N O P Y O F Q F



SUNSHINE
VACATION
RAIN BOOTS
ROAD TRIP

AIRPLANE
SLEEPING IN
FRIENDS
SPRING

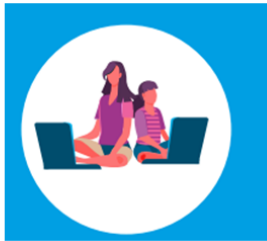
BLOSSOMS
GAMES
PUDDLES
TULIPS





Tips for Creating a Learning Environment at home to help revision

Motivating your child in the run up to end of year tests and exams is central to their success. Motivation means ensuring they are interested, involved and content in their learning. As a parent you have an important role to play by providing your children with encouragement and feedback. Try these few tips, and remember to be kind to yourself too :)



Talk to your children and discuss their weekly timetable, lessons and google assignments.



Set weekly goals with your children, encourage them and celebrate their achievements.



Peer-to peer support among siblings or remotely with friends can help them to discuss ideas and work.



Ask your children to explain what they have been doing, challenge them by asking why.



Allow breaks in revision, with subjects chunked into small allocations of time.



Cater for their social and emotional needs. Allow time off revision.