



# Saint Christina's School Bulletin

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents,

As we stand in this moment, I am reminded of the narrative in the third part of the Lord of the Rings Trilogy, 'The Return of the King'. Sauron has become aware of Aragorn and decides that he must strike quickly to defeat Gondor. In doing so, he sends his innumerable forces under the cover of a darkness, an eternal cloying and clinging darkness that recognises neither dawn nor dusk that he himself creates.

January felt like that to me, but, just as the darkness in the Lord of the Rings was blown away by hope, so do I feel the grip of the virus loosening. I feel Spring! I can see and feel the world coming back to life. It fills me with hope and I know that it is having the same effect on many of you.

This week we marked the National Day of Reflection across the School. The children have been encouraged to express their feelings around the lockdown and the virus, and many of the things that they have said or written are deep, empathetic and moving. We have considered the Pope's Lenten Challenge, a challenge to encourage and embrace to be patient and reflect.

I want to thank you again, for all of the kind words and support that you have shown the staff throughout this term. I know that they have worked really hard to support the children through this difficult period but they would never have had the impact, if they had not been able to rely on you and all the things that you have done to support their work. And the children have done well! The termly progress assessments show that they are where they should be in their learning, despite the dislocation. So thank you for all you have done.

With all this said, we have to say that we cannot let down our guard yet. Restrictions will remain for the foreseeable future and we must continue to protect the children and the broader community. We will reopen on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April with the same routines that we have at the moment and we will respond to any changes that the Government make over the course of the Summer Term, as they become known to us.

It was a great pleasure to have Jamie Raveney in School on Thursday. You will recall that Mr Raveney is taking up the role of Director of Sport and has already laid out exciting ideas and plans for next term.

So we are surrounded by hope and optimism. I hope that the vaccine roll-out is able to continue so that when the virus hits our shores again (as the politicians say it will) it finds a far more hostile environment. I hope that we will never be asked to teach and learn remotely again and that with gentle and considered purpose we are able to make our way towards a more normal world again.

"May Christ, who has already defeated death and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, dispel the darkness of our suffering humanity and lead us into the light of His glorious day. A day that knows no end".  
*(Pope Francis, Easter 2020)*

Alastair Gloag  
**Headteacher**

## Easter Fun in the Nursery!

This week Nursery have been learning all about Easter. We have learnt about the Easter Story and how eggs symbolise new life, then we got stuck into making our own.

We first made string eggs using thread and glue to wind the string around a balloon making the shell with a chocolate trapped inside. Next, we painted our own hardboiled eggs and took these over to Primrose Hill to try out a new sport, egg rolling! We lined up at the top of the hill and raced our eggs down the hill.



We finished the week off with an Easter Egg hunt in the park. It was a lovely way to end the term!

Happy Easter!

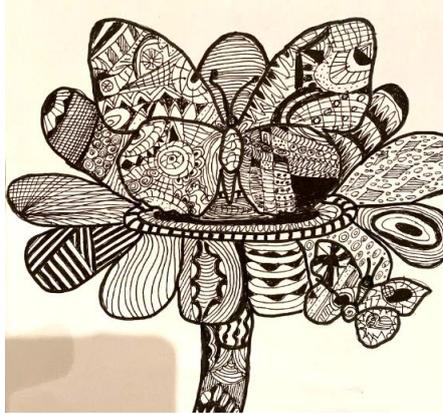
Miss Randle – Nursery Class Teacher



## Year 3 Art

In Art lessons, Year 3 have been busy 'Zentangling'. Zentangles are abstract black and white art made up of beautiful patterns.

Ms Sephton – Year 3 Class Teacher



## Message from the Sisters

Sister Margaret, Sr Noella and Sr Anne, would like to wish Mr Gloag, all the staff, parents and children of St. Christina's a very happy, peaceful, and blessed Holy Week and Easter.

Our prayers and thoughts will be with you all during this very special time when we remember how very much God loves each one of us.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!



## House Poetry Competition

The girls in KS2 were asked to write their own poem to reflect Spring and Hope for this term's House Poetry Competition. Thank you to all of the children who took part and entered their poem. Two of our governors were delighted to be the judges of the competition and were very impressed with the poems.

The points were all added up and the results were as follows:

3<sup>rd</sup> place – St Joan of Arc

2<sup>nd</sup> place – St Cecilia

1<sup>st</sup> place – St Francis

I am delighted to share the winning poems from each class.

Mrs Ellisdon, Head of Key Stage 2



**Spring**

The forest in Spring is a beautiful place  
Brightly coloured bluebells covering its' face  
Golden yellow daffodils dance on the ground  
Their sticky pollen spreading all around  
Little baby birds sitting in their nests  
Eating their food making a mess  
Fiery ladybugs fly through the air  
Spreading their love to be really fair  
Fragrant blossom blows from the trees  
Landing on the ground like a blanket of leaves  
Spring is a time of hope and light  
Where creatures burst from their mother's dark night



**The Spring Forest**

I walked into the forest,  
Can you guess what I see,  
The starting-to-grow bluebells  
were bowing at me,  
The majestic trees were as soft as  
cotton,  
It is like all the snow had been  
forgotten.  
I breathed in the fresh clean air,  
It smelt like candy floss at a fair,  
The sunny chicks begin to hatch  
In my dew-soaked garden of the house  
with a golden thatch,  
All the flora and fauna were shaking  
in harmony with spring awakening.

BY Gina Y3.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Rio

#### SPRING POEM

*Spring is here Spring is here  
Winter is gone and snow is gone  
Robin is singing beautifully  
Five children dancing around the bluebell tree  
Spring is here! I hope, I hope Spring is here*

*Picnic under a big tree  
Beautiful view from the cherry blossom mountain  
Lovely blue sky as water  
I can see cloud like cherry blossom  
Dogs and cats running around the green grass  
Pinky large cherry blossom in middle of park  
I want to dance and sing under a pinky cherry blossom tree*

*Bake a pinky cherry blossom cake  
I can smell a delicious smell from a new oven  
I can see a cake turning like a real pinky delicious  
I wish I can be beautiful like pinky cherry blossom  
It's was yummy, tasty and shimmering as golden crown*

*I am thinking that spring is the perfect time  
I wish spring will never vanish  
I hope everyone will enjoy spring  
I love spring then ever  
I am happy and full of joy  
How nice is Spring?*



### Year 4

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Martina



#### **You and me**

*The sunlight as bright as light  
The sky as blue as the sea  
The land as isolated as lockdown  
Then I found you next to me*

*Your mane as black as a hole  
Your colour as white as the ceiling  
Your spots like chocolate cookies  
When I saw your blue eyes stare at me*

*It was getting dark and scary  
I knew you would protect me  
You had such a force as, of course, you are:*

*My favourite horse!*

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Dia

Spring Brings Hope

When the cold winter has gone by,  
Flocks of birds crowd back the air  
chirping in the sky,  
If you listen closely, you can hear,  
bees buzzing around so clear,  
bawling winds have given way to gentle breeze,  
flowers are back in bloom on leaf-laden trees!

Such a beautiful time is Spring  
A renewed hope, after the chilly winter,  
almost a new beginning,  
When laughter and families together,  
the sunshine and gardens bring.  
Every year, continues this cycle of nature,  
Be it in sickness, in fear, or any trouble,  
Almost by design, for every living creature,  
Spring brings Hope to even the most feeble.

Eagerly awaiting the arrival of this season,  
Expectations of good, will outshine concerns and reason,  
For light & harvest will transform the earth,  
Once again, a bright, better tomorrow,  
will take birth!



3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Sienna L



WHY I LOVE  
THE SPRING

As spring comes, my senses come to life  
A fresh new life begins  
I smell new air, and the soils earthy smell  
And that is why I love the spring

As winters dark and cold days disappear  
The sun treats us to beautiful sunrises  
I see blooming flowers, and clouds floating in the sky  
And that is why I love the spring

As spring treats us to beautiful nature  
Everyone comes out to play  
I hear birds chirp, the childrens laughter  
And that is why I love the spring

As the sun warms our faces  
We shake of the winter darkness  
I love the melting taste of the first ice cream  
And that is why I love the spring

As we come out of the long months of winter and isolation  
our hearts fill with hope and joy  
New beginnings, new plans bring us to life  
For THAT is why I love the spring

***Hope in the Sky***

*Oh the moon deepens  
Must wave goodbye  
Here comes the sun  
In charge of the sky*

*Good morning orange glitter  
Oh semi-circle sun  
See you when your full  
2 hours to come!*

*With the break of day  
Hope drifts from the sky  
Showering the landscape  
With rays of hope from up high*

*When the sun sets  
The hope disappears  
Waiting for sunrise  
To then reappear*

*Oh the sun deepens  
Must wave goodbye  
Here comes the moon  
In charge of the sky*

*Goodbye orange glitter  
Oh semi-circle sun  
See you in the morning  
12 hours to come!*



***Spring and Hope***

*As winter fades, Spring begins  
The blossoms growing and the birds chirping  
From Winters trees to Spring flowers,  
Spring brings hope and lengthens the hours.  
Bumblebees pollinate,  
Butterflies fly by.*

*Birds hopping about,  
As springtime comes around  
In just a few weeks the rivers will flow  
Daffodils in fields will start to show  
Spring is the time to start afresh  
It is the time when you feel refreshed  
Spring is here!*

*This is the time,  
We see colour at every sight  
Yes, spring is the season of hope.*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Cecily

*Spring is here...*

*In the Spring,  
The music rings,  
The birds are tweeting,  
Even when we are sleeping.*

*We hope for flowers,  
Even if it might take hours,  
The daisies are coming through,  
Bright and white looking new.*

*Baby lambs lie in the meadows,  
With the crowds of sparrows.  
The bees are buzzing all around,  
It is the flowers that must be found.*

*We are in the lawn,  
Watching the fawns,  
As they try to stand,  
Tripping over uneven land.*

*And so the Spring,  
It brings,  
Fun and joy,  
To us girls and boys.*



### Year 6



**1<sup>st</sup> Place and Overall KS2 Winner – Lara**



#### ***A cycle***

*They start at nothing, a journey to last,  
Without delay start forgetting their past.*

*Uncomfortably compressed, ready to fly,  
Unwelcomed fate staring straight in the eye.*

*Mounds of soil piled high up above,  
Along with some squirrels to be scared of.*

*Swiftly rise up like a determined bird,  
To them all but seed and soil is absurd.*

*The stem grows tall, leaves begin shooting out.  
Beautiful petals follow without doubt.*

*The sun cowers and hides, while skies turn grey,  
The snow and the cold is now here to stay.*

*Now petals and leaves start wilting away,  
Soon to come back and be seen another day.*



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Alexia**

*The Bird of Hope  
She flies throughout all the land  
Bringing spring across sea and sand  
She enters the young and old  
And turns their souls a rainbow gold  
Its feathers are a parade in itself  
This beautiful bird is as nimble as an elf  
And all you remember of this beauty is a fantasy  
glow  
It flies on earth releasing the grass from its thick  
blanket of snow  
When she flies by, the flowers bloom  
Instantly banishing all the gloom  
Her feathers look rainbow and painted  
With winter she is not acquainted  
She turns the prickly yellow grass, lush and lime  
green  
She helps everyone from beggar to queen  
You notice her when people talk to the trees  
And sun yellow daffodils dance happily in the  
breeze  
When the roses dawdle in the fields  
And the bluebird brings up its shields  
Let her perch on your soul  
And she once more will make you feel whole*



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Sophia B**



***An Orchid out of a Storm***

*The storm has ceased  
Some say it left rubble, cold and empty disease.*

*So I know that after a storm an orchid will bloom  
Be patient, it will bloom, very soon  
The world shall awaken heralding spring  
A dove shall fly on a no-longer-broken-wing  
Foxglove, crocus and forget-me-nots galore  
Blossom, so happily, on the fresh, Easter floor.*

*So just wait and you'll see  
Flowers on the ground, birds on your sycamore tree  
And you'll know that after a storm an orchid blooms  
If you are patient, it will bloom, very soon.*

## National Day for Reflection

As part of the National Day of Reflection, Year 3 reflected on both the positive and negative experiences of the last year. They described how they felt about the lockdown and thought about the things that they learnt or discovered.

Ms Sephton – Year 3 Class Teacher

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Day of Reflection

Today we mark one year since the UK went into National Lockdown. When I went into National Lockdown I felt worried because I didn't know what was going to happen and I did not understand what was happening. I missed my friends and I was very bored. I have learnt in the Lockdown that we have to wash our hands often, wear masks outside to keep other people safe. The Lockdown actually gave me more time with my family because all my <sup>weekend</sup> lessons were cancelled. When I was homeschooling my dad kept coming out of the room where he works from home and telling me to keep quiet. At my lessons in homeschooling we were keeping healthy by learning a new sport skill. I have learnt how to skip for 5 minutes without stopping. I appreciate it, I also drew a picture for the NHS and clapped every week on Thursday! I am so happy to be at school!

PE



Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Day of Reflection

Today we mark one year since the UK went into National Lockdown. I felt sad and worried because this has never happened before to me. Also I felt bored because there was not much to do at home. I also missed my teachers and friends. While we had to stay at home we also had online lessons. (that gave me a lot of headaches) While we were in lockdown I felt terrified to hear that my dad and Clara tested positive. There were a lot of restrictions and all the shops were closed. I have learnt to bake pies and be more hygienic. Also I learned how to use the google classroom, google slides. I learned lots of skills on the computer and I learned new skills in PE. We also learned how to appreciate doctors and nurses, also the NHS. I got to spend more time with my family.

STAY SAFE!



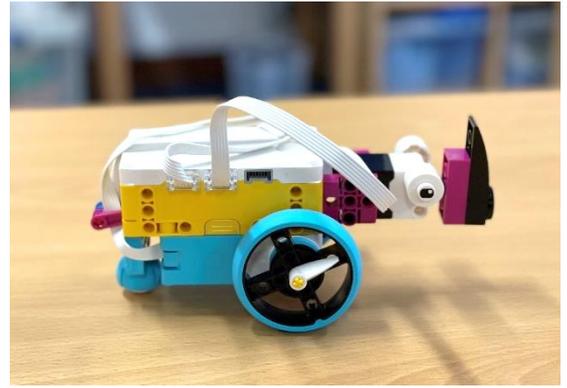
## Science this week

### Year 6 STEM Club

Last week, STEM club built and programmed a jumping robot that they sent hopping around the Science room. This week, they stepped up their building prowess to create a robotic rhino.

They enjoyed calculating how many rotations they could programme in order for it to get as close as possible to a brick without knocking it over.

They then built on what they had learnt and created a code so that the rhino would spin around and set off in a random direction whenever it collided with a wall, somewhat like an autonomous vacuum cleaner!

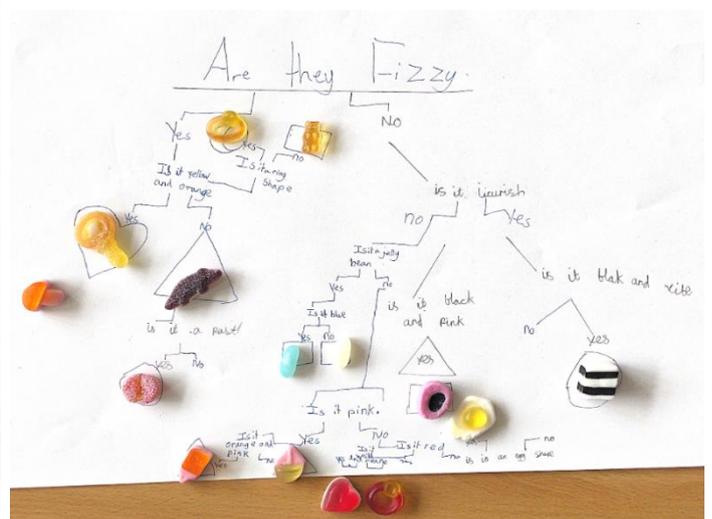
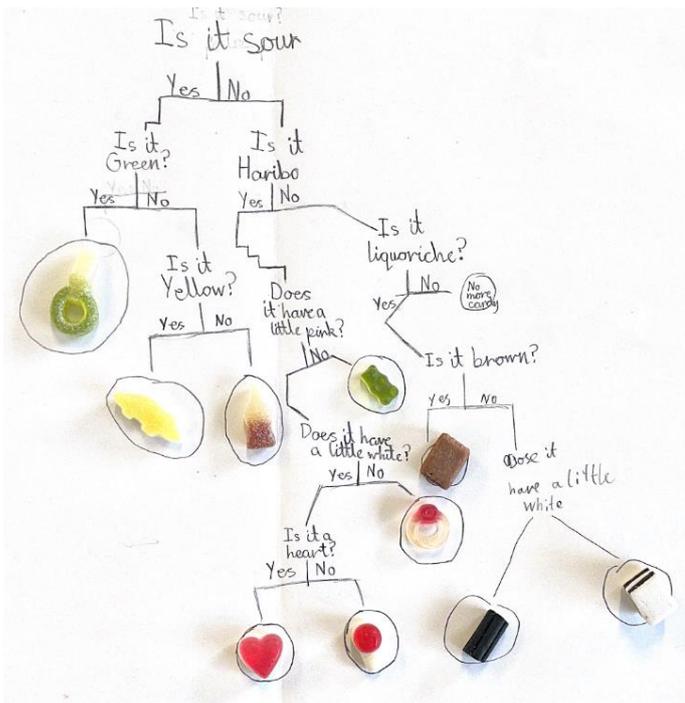


This was the girls' idea and you can see them having fun with their creation below.



### Year 4 – Classification Connoisseurs

Year 4 learnt about the sweeter side of classification this week by applying what they had learnt about biological branching keys for classification purposes and making their own to identify their favourite mixed sweets!



### Year 5 – Women in STEM

Year 5 have been learning about leading women in STEM who are helping fight the pandemic for example the Hungarian Bio-Chemist, Katalin Kariko, who did pioneering research on mRNA to allow the creation of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. They also delivered presentations on what they had learnt to the class.

Some examples of their work is below:



### Year 3 – Geologist experts

Year 3 enjoyed delving deeper into their study of rocks, including learning all about fossil formation (even bringing in their own fossils) and getting to grips with the serious business of rock identification which you can see the girls hard at work on below. The children also found time to round off the lesson with a volcano eruption simulation!

Mr Hirst – Deputy Head / Science Co-ordinator



## Year 4 RE Lesson

Year 4 have been learning about 'Holy Week' in RE. After a week-long reflection on the different days in Holy Week and their significance in the life of Jesus we decided to put it into action. Here we are, acting out the important events towards the end of Jesus' life.

I'm very proud of the children in Year 4 for putting great thought and reverence into the entire role play.

Ms Fernandes



Palm Sunday



Spy Wednesday



Washing of Feet



The Last Supper

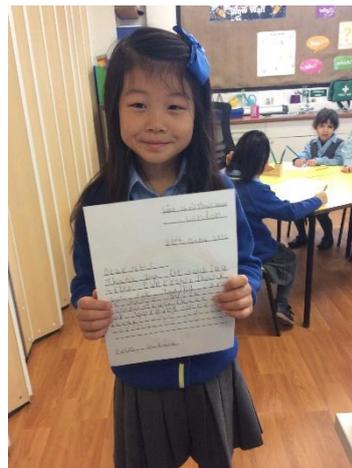
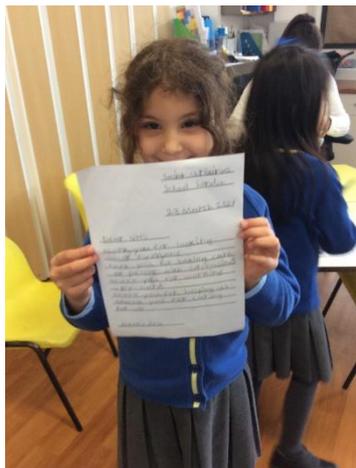


Garden of Gethsemane

## Year 1 Activities

### Reflection

With this Tuesday being one full year since restrictions were brought in, we reflected on how things have changed over the past year. We thought about all of the changes, including wearing masks, online school, social distancing, bubbles and all the extra handwashing. We are very thankful for all the help that everyone has given us over the past year, particularly our parents (who also became teachers!) and the NHS staff. We decided to write letters to the NHS to say thank you and show our appreciation. We also included some beautiful drawings on the back!



### Spring Walk

On Wednesday, we went for a spring walk to Primrose Hill. We enjoyed the sun, played games and competed in some egg and spoon races. We had a special Easter surprise at the end, we used a creme egg for our egg and spoon race and then ate them all!



### Trip Around the World

Inspired by learning Irish last week and exploring Ireland on the map for St. Patrick's Day, Miss Higgins' class have continued their trip around the world. Hana and Sakura showed us Japan on our world map. They also taught us how to say hello and we have done our register each morning in Japanese with their help. It has been lots of fun and we look forward to continuing onto new countries during the summer term.

### Reflections from Year 5

*When we had heard of "Covid" for the first time I had never thought it would turn into what we have now I never thought it was going to be a thing here in England. I still remember when I watched a video about the coronavirus I had told everybody that I hoped it wouldn't come here. Seeing these scary videos of people in China with oxygen masks being rushed to the hospital really scared me but once we had some cases here I became less scared but still frightened. 2020 to me felt like a new fun and exciting year (this was way before COVID came to England). My whole life changed due to Covid it made me feel sad, worried, scared and afraid. I wasn't sure what would happen to me and my family and friends. I had started to wear masks and even told my mom that I would have a mask for each outfit (haven't reached my goal yet but I'm trying). We went online but luckily not much changed with online school for me because I was still in school because my dad is a key-worker but I had made new friends like the receptions/year 1s now. I'm most grateful for my parents, especially my dad because he is in the hospital every day to help others stay safe. He has also let me go to school because he is a key-worker, and my mom because she has been working at home even when my brother and I were at home. The scientists behind the vaccine because my dad, grandma Mary, grandpa Mark, grandad and great grandma have all had the vaccine which has helped them stay safe. The doctors, nurses and the NHS have always tried their hardest to keep the whole world safe and thanks to them some of our oldest relatives are alive thanks to them.*

Dear God,

*I want to thank you for keeping my family safe. Please help the sick dying and unwell to get better and stay safe. This has been a hard time for others so please help them find ways to go around their problems. Please tell the NHS and medical staff that they are doing a great job on saving the world and they are the whole world's heroes. You have kept me safe, you've kept my family safe and you've kept my friends safe and I just wanted to thank you for keeping the world and Boris and the government safe. THANK YOU*

Amen

By Sloane



2020 made me feel very unsafe and insecure because we were all in lockdown. It was terrible. I felt left alone because we couldn't see our friends and I have no siblings to play with. Covid-19 made me understand about how germs spread and before Covid we didn't really take caution about it. When we were in lockdown my mum got depressed and it was a hard time for her. Covid-19 changed me and probably everyone's life, but one good thing was that we didn't do online school in my old school and it was the summer holidays, but we still had to be in lockdown.

The changes that took place in my every-day life was that we had to stay at home as much as possible, we had to put on so much protection and I remember how we always used to run out of hand sanitizer because we used to use it on our hands and face. Social distancing changed and whenever someone walks in front of me I always used to go on the edge of the pavement to not get Covid just in case if they have it. Bubbles were a new thing to me and I actually liked it because it had a funny name.

I am most grateful for my parents and grandparents for not going that often outside for no reason but in Lithuania Covid didn't spread until the French government came and had Covid. I am also grateful for the people that raised money for the NHS like Sir Captain Tom Moore and some other people. I am also grateful for the technology that we have and the lockdown made us understand how to use technology more.

Dear God

This is a poem for you God

LOCKDOWN

The blue bells and shining and blue birds are crying

No one is feeding them now, the masks are in the ocean

And pollution is taking over, our world is being destroyed

Each second right now, we can't help it we're in this lockdown

And it's destroying our planet right now, all that we can do is pray

To God and he will save us right now, hope is coming vaccines are

Rising it's fun to be finally at school, where drawing the rainbows

And clapping along, like everyone else in the world.

Thank you God, Amen

By Karile, Year 5

*This year has made me get closer to all my neighbours. The lockdown brought us together and in the summer we would all play outside. But at most times I felt miserable about not being able to see my friends at school. I felt scared because we had never been in a lockdown and I was nervous about how bad things were. We are not able to go into any shops without a mask and how we always have to wash our hands when we sneeze. What I really wasn't used to was being at home for my birthday but it was amazing anyway. I am very grateful that no one in my family has gotten Covid 19 and that everyone is healthy. I am so grateful that scientists have come up with many different vaccines and that both my parents got it this week. I am also grateful that during lockdown I had my sister, my brother and six others to play with.*

*I was very excited to get a puppy in September and it really helped us cheer us up during the most recent lockdown. Miles is a black cockapoo and is very loving and protective. He gives us the best cuddles and has made the last few months really happy for us!*

*Locked inside*

*Online learning*

*Caring for our neighbours and clapping for the key-workers*

*Keeping your distance*

*Drawing for the NHS*

*Online deliveries*

*Wearing a mask*

*Nobody on the street*

*By Marta*

## REMINDERS

- **Summer Uniform is to be worn when the children return from the Easter Holidays.**

## Key Dates

Date	Event
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School ends at 12 noon for the Easter Holidays</li></ul>
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staff INSET</li></ul>
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Children return – Children to wear summer uniform</b></li></ul>
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teacher led clubs begin</li></ul>