




St. Sampson's Church of England Primary School

www.st-sampsons.wilts.sch.uk

 @StSampsonsPri

Term 3 - Number 14

Thursday, 7th January 2021

Happy New Year to you all! And what a crazy start to 2021 and the new term it has been...!

Firstly, can I please thank absolutely everyone in our school community for the phenomenal effort this week. I know many of us felt very anxious on Monday, and during the weekend before school started, and then we had the very late announcement of lockdown Monday night. This resulted in school being virtual to all from Tuesday. I appreciate that this will have meant some last minute organising and will have caused upset and more anxiety. The way everyone pulled together on Tuesday to make sure that resources got home, children were prepared for what was happening, logistical arrangements sorted was testament to everyone; staff and families alike. But what was even more overwhelming, was the kindness, positivity and support that was shown. I realise that there are mixed emotions and concerns, particularly about home schooling and keeping safe, but the 'can do' and 'will do' attitude will get us all through this. It is of paramount importance to remember that we are in this together and that is how we will make this period of lockdown and virtual schooling manageable, purposeful and successful.

Last March, during lockdown, I suspended writing the weekly newsletter, putting all my communication on Parentmail instead. This time, I fully intend to try to keep the weekly newsletter. However, if there are updates that need to get to you before the next newsletter, I will write via parentmail as well. I am conscious that I don't want to send too much too often. In addition, I will be present on Class Dojo.

Jennifer Bayne

Class Dojo and Home Learning



It has been brilliant to see so many children engaged in this so far - well done!

Here are a few points / reminders:

- Class teachers will be able to respond to any queries on Class Dojo during the school day - PLEASE DO SPEAK TO THEM - they will be very bored without you!
- Home learning will include some direct teaching. This could include videos on Class Dojo from the class teacher or links to clips online eg from Oak Academy or BBC Bitesize. This will often be pre-recorded so that children can access it at different times (which can help with sharing devices).
- Class teachers are monitoring engagement. Please upload any home learning for feedback on to your child's portfolio (or via messenger if portfolio won't work) on Class Dojo so that they can see it. I am also having a look at work each day! Where we can't see children's engagement, we will be following up with parents, in line with DfE guidelines.
- Digital devices from the DfE have NOT been released to primary schools yet and we have not been allocated many. Where parents need paper copies, please let your child's class teacher know.

Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome Mr Cliff to our teaching team. Mr Cliff is teaching 6J. What a start he has had! It is great to have him on board.

We are also pleased to say that Mr Ball has taken up the position of Upper School Leader from the start of this term and has joined the leadership team within school.

Our value that we are exploring this term is 'Creativity'

Collective Worship and Class Celebration Zooms

We will continue to share in Collective Worship each week. Since the end of March, this has been recorded and shared remotely or in classrooms. It will continue this way and will be based around our value for the term.

In addition, since September, we have thoroughly enjoyed Celebration Zoom time each week, where we have virtually joined together as a whole school. I think that it might be a little ambitious to try this as a whole school but each class teacher will be looking to hold a class Celebration Zoom, possibly once a fortnight, where children can join together with their class mates.

We are aware that some families are sharing devices so we would look to publish a timetable for these so that there are no clashes. This will be shared on Class Dojo.

Free School Meals and Universal Infant Free School Meals

Vulnerable children and children of critical workers who are in school and who are entitled to a FSM or a UIFSM will be able to order a meal in the usual way. Our kitchens are open.

There is no provision for UIFSM children who are not in school.

Families of children who are entitled to FSM who aren't in school are able to collect a food hamper provided by Dolce every fortnight. The DfE has instructed that kitchens must stay open in schools and therefore there will be no vouchers issued during this period of lockdown as the provision is still in place. Families who are entitled to this have been contacted. The hampers meet all the necessary standards and food and items in the hampers cannot be substituted. If a child is not keen on some of the food, then the thinking is that someone else in the house can enjoy that and the money saved can be spent on what the child would like instead.

Where a child is attending school part-time, there will be a balance of meals in school and hampers.

Foodbank Referrer

We are a referrer for Cricklade Foodbank. You can message me on class dojo, or speak to anyone in the office if this is something that we can support you with.

I am here to help, listen, support and do anything I can. I know that this is a challenging time for lots of families. Please message me on class dojo. I will get back to you as soon as I can. ☺