



St. Sampson's

Church of England Primary School

www.st-sampsons.wilts.sch.uk

Term 3 - Number 16

Thursday, 21st January 2021

 @StSampsonsPri



CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS JAMES WHO HAS HAD A BABY GIRL!



Aeres Elizabeth James arrived safely, early last Friday morning, weighing a healthy 8 lb 14oz. Mr and Mrs James are thrilled and we wish them all the best as they enjoy being a family. ☺

Well done for another week of lockdown learning. I will have met (virtually) with all the class teachers by the end of this week and have talked through every child. Many thanks for all your feedback. The teachers are able to adjust things appropriately to support your child at home and I feel confident that the vast majority of children are making progress with their learning whilst they are not in their normal classroom environment. Of course, it is a different experience to learning in school, where they would have far more peer and teacher interaction, but I have been so impressed how families have adapted things to make it work for them. We recognise everyone's circumstances are unique and the amount of time to support children varies enormously in every house due to work commitments and number of children alone. However, it is brilliant how everyone has recognised the importance of the children continuing with the schooling routing during lockdown. Thank you.

Where there is less engagement or evidence of work, we are following this up and taking appropriate steps if it needs to be escalated. Please do communicate with us, especially if you are going through a tough patch. We will do all we can to support you.

Jennifer Bayne

Devices to support Home Learning

We have now received our allocation of 20 DfE laptops which can be loaned out to families during lockdown or in the event of a bubble having to isolate. In addition, we have received some funding from Wiltshire that we are using to purchase more of the same laptops to be used for the same purpose as well as in school.

We have also used our IT technician to 'convert' our bank of laptops in school so that they will work outside the school network and have given, or are in the process of giving, these out to people in our community who are struggling for devices. We have used the Parental IT Survey responses and have contacted parents who did not respond to this survey to check that they are ok. However, if you are struggling; for example, your child is using a smartphone, there are multiple children sharing a device, or your need help with data / broadband / wifi, please let us know as a p.

Lateral Flow Testing for Primary School Staff

You may have seen in the media that the DfE are introducing lateral flow testing for all staff working on site in Primary Schools, starting on Monday, 25th January. We have attended training this week on the implementation and organisation around this and will be starting lateral flow tests for all adults working in school, whether it be school staff or catering staff as soon as we can (although our first batch of tests have been delayed and aren't due to be delivered until 26th January).

Staff can opt in to this. It involves staff self-testing at home every 3-4 days. A positive indication on a lateral flow test means that that member of staff would then have to book a PCR test. Until a negative result from this booked test, the member of staff and all those in their household and support bubble, would need to self-isolate. If the member of staff has been in school 48 hours prior to this lateral flow test positive result, all children in their bubble (if attending as a critical worker or vulnerable child) would also have to self-isolate. This isolation would continue until either a negative PCR test result or 10 days from the first day of isolation, if the result from the PCR test was positive.

Current guidance recommends that testing takes place in the morning. Tests take 30 minutes to confirm a result. This could mean very short notice from the start of a school day that a bubble would need to be closed. We appreciate in advance, your understanding with this.

Free School Meals and Covid Winter Funding

You are probably aware from the media, that the government have now introduced a national voucher scheme, which started this Monday, for those families entitled to Free School Meals. (At this point, I would like to say thank you to Kerry and her team for preparing the hampers and getting them to families as we were asked to do so in the first two weeks of this lockdown).

The national voucher scheme (Edenred) is not running over half term. Instead, Wiltshire will run their Covid Winter Funding scheme in the same way that they did over Christmas. Families who are entitled to FSM will receive Tesco Vouchers for the half term period.

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.

During this lockdown time, vouchers will be issued virtually and the food parcel will be delivered.

