



St. Sampson's

Church of England Primary School

www.st-sampsons.wilts.sch.uk

Term 3 - Number 17

Thursday, 28th January 2021

 @StSampsonsPri

I hope that you all had great fun in the snow on Sunday. Wasn't it fantastic to be outside and doing something different? I loved seeing all your pictures and everyone looking so happy. There were some very impressive snow people / snow creatures and igloos built too!

I think that in some ways, having a lovely Sunday, along with the media speculation at the weekend about when schools will be 'open' to everyone, made Monday morning seem quite tough for a lot of us. I know that I have had many 'phone calls, as have other teachers, at the end of last week and this week with people who are struggling. I think that there are several points to remind ourselves of:

- Remember the context. These are extraordinary times; we are in a worldwide global pandemic and full national lockdown. It is absolutely going to be really tough and we can only do our best each day. Some days, that will just be about maintaining equilibrium and looking after ourselves.
- Learning at home and virtual schooling isn't going to be the same, for so many reasons, as being in school, in terms of output, interaction, engagement and motivation.
- Some of us (children and adults) like to have the approach of getting everything done and then it is ticked off for the day. However, this is quite intense. In school, there are breaks and independent learning happens in a wider class context. Therefore, breaking up the day with interspersed learning and breaks might work better for some of us.
- Every task / day / week is a fresh start. Celebrate what is done rather than what is left. The same is true in terms of this lockdown period. Whilst we are not completely clear about how much longer it will go on for, we have nearly already done 4 weeks.
- ***We are not all in the same boat but we are in the same storm.*** Be kind, support each other and keep in touch - school & home. We can work together now and will work together when we are all in school to make sure we do our best to address any gaps in learning.

There is lots of really great home learning happening and we really appreciate the children's efforts and your support with this. As always, if we can further support in any way - devices, paper copies, motivational 'phone or zoom call for parent or child, please drop us a message on Class Dojo and we will do our best.

In 'on site' school news this week, we have had a new boiler fitted in the Lower School building. In addition, our lateral flow test kits for staff have also arrived and staff who have opted in have started to self-test at home every 3-4 days.

Finally, thank you for all your kind words and messages of appreciation. They go a long way ☺

Jennifer Bayne

Children's Mental Health Week – 1st – 7th February



Next week is Children's Mental Health week. This year's theme is 'Express Yourself', which fits in really well with our school value this term of, 'Creativity'. I will use some of the resources for our Collective Worship next week. In addition, there are a range of resources that parents can have a look at on <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/> I have already seen lots of examples of our children expressing themselves in song, dance and art, as well as many other ways, on Class Dojo. Please do share anything that you do at home with your child's class teacher or with me.

NSPCC Number Day – Change of Date

We love to get involved with NSPCC Number Day at St Sampson's and Mrs Turner, being super organised, already had exciting plans in place for 5th February. However, this will now take place on Friday, 7th May and we look forward to being able to do this day in school.

RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch – this weekend!



Can you find an hour to spend this weekend watching garden birds from your window?

Why not join thousands of other people taking part in the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch? You can sign up on the RSPB website and take part, remotely, with friends and family in the world's largest wildlife survey, all from the comfort of your own home!

Experts will join in 'live' across the UK, bringing you photos, footage and facts about the birds they see as well as answering your questions. There is also a 'what bird are you?!' fun quiz on the website. All in all, the RSPB what to make this one the best bird watch ever!

Family Learning

Wiltshire Family and Community Learning have a number of courses that can support parents during lockdown.

- We want to help you to help those parents that are at home and trying to support their children with home schooling.
- Our courses follow the National Curriculum closely and will reflect the methods used in the classroom so that parents understand the work that is being sent home.
- The courses we offer are varied lengths and we certainly believe there will be a course to suit all family circumstances at this current time.

What courses do we have available?

[Helping My Child Build Concentration and Resilience](#)

[Helping My Child with Anxiety and Worry](#)

[Helping My Child with Reading](#)

For more information and to see a full list of the courses available, please visit <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-learning>