



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 3rd February 2021 | No. 11

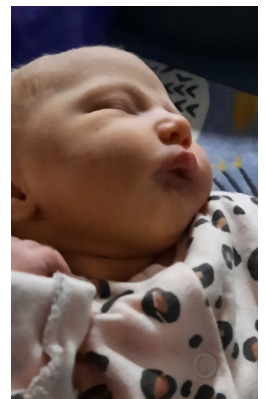
Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. We have had a challenging week here at school with the sad reality that Covid meant we have had to close a bubble—our first incident. It reminds us of the real importance of social distancing, hand hygiene and wearing a face covering—hands—face—space. Thank you for reminding your children of these key messages and for being particularly mindful if you have an in-school pupil, when you are dropping off and picking up. Please could we remind you that if you have a member of the household self-isolating, they can not be included in the drop off and pick up arrangements. They do need to stay at home.

We are very aware of that many of you are struggling with the challenges of home learning, working yourselves and supporting children of varying ages to engage with their studies. We know that being told that the closure of schools until at least the 8th March brought real disappointment to many families. Thank you so much for all you are doing to support your children with their learning and we appreciate the enormous tension and struggle that this may bring from time to time. The engagement that your children have shown and are continuing to show has been a true credit to themselves and you. We know that for some this is, and has been, very hard and please do remember that every family is different and we know you are doing all you can. Please remember that we are ensuring there is sufficient material to keep everyone busy so please don't feel every task has to be completed. We have also tried to highlight which piece of work each day staff would like 'turned in' so if time or device availability means choices have to be made, you can identify the priorities. Staff are trying to give a wide range of activities so there are tasks to suit all learners. Please do look on the next page to enjoy the creative efforts of Year 3. Children and staff have really enjoyed their weekly catch ups where the small group sizes have meant there is some time to connect. Please also do encourage your child to use the year group post to ask questions and engage in dialogue with their teachers. Some year groups are really utilising this facility.

As you know, as a school we are having a focus on reading this year and therefore we are planning a book week (w/c 1st March) to incorporate **World Book Day**. The week will incorporate lots of different activities and will have a very different 'feel' to our usual remote week. As part of this we will be having a dress-up day. Again please don't feel under any undue pressure—choose a character and dress up as far as you feel able. We wanted to give you some notice in case you wanted a project for half term! We will be sending more details out about this in the next week or so. We have had some exciting news in school—Mrs Bryan has given birth to a baby girl (Brianna Olidia) on January 31st weighing 8lb 1oz! Mum and baby are both doing well.



This week has been '**children's mental health week**' and this has been the focus for a number of activities and class catch ups. The theme relates to 'Express yourself' and the children have been encouraged to share what they like to do to be creative—I have even had my flute out this week and spent a while playing it! Spending some time doing something creative does make a big difference to how we feel. We have all dressed up in our 'feel good' clothes this week and have had some very colourful class catch-ups! Place2Be's website is worth visiting for those families wanting additional resources around mental health <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>



We have embraced the government's initiative to have lateral flow testing for staff. This will identify asymptomatic cases in the hope of reducing transmission. We are reading daily about pockets of cases and we need to do all we can as a community. Please can I draw your attention to a message that we have received from SCC reminding parents that National Lockdown rules apply (National lockdown: Stay at Home - GOV.UK (<http://www.gov.uk>) and that we all have a duty to keep our school community safe. "If there are serious concerns that parents, carers or families are witnessed to be breaking these rules, there may be a duty to report this using Surrey Police reporting mechanism (Breach of coronavirus (Covid-19) measures | Surrey Police). We are all in this together and we thank you for your understanding".

I long for life to be back to some sort of normal and I know that it will come but it feels a long way away at times and I hope you can hold onto the small things that are making you smile.

Take care and thank you for being a part of our St Paul's family. Best wishes, Mrs Alden



In-school learners

Last term we took a sensible approach to children's illnesses and only sent them home if they displayed one of the three main Covid symptoms (fever, persistent cough, a change in taste or smell) or if they were generally unwell. Please be aware that recent positive Covid cases have only presented with cold-like symptoms prior to being tested. This includes children and adults. For this reason we ask that, should your child display any cold-related symptoms, you keep your child at home and consider booking a test. Should your child develop these symptoms while at school, we will contact you to collect your child.

Half-Term

Please note that school will be closed to ALL children (including vulnerable children and those of critical workers) from the end of school on Friday 12th February until we return to school on Monday 22nd February.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 within 48 hours of leaving school, please notify the school via the Covid e mail covid@stpauls-dorking.surrey.sch.uk.

In this situation we are required to inform anyone who had been in close contact with your child, in order for them to self-isolate for ten days. When you notify us of this please ensure you have given the date of when symptoms began as well as the date the test was taken.

HALF TERM
HOLIDAY

Ideas for Half term... Surrey Heritage Centre would usually be open and offer activities for the family over half term. This February they have gone virtual. The video explains how to make a wind sock and showcases some of the old windmills of Surrey.

[Make a Wind Sock with Surrey Heritage - YouTube](#)

The Year 3 Onceler Gallery

Our English unit has been based on The Lorax by Dr Seuss. On Friday they were tasked with creating their own Oncelers, a character you never see in the book so that they could then write a character description this week. The Year 3 team were bowled over by what they created and how innovative they have been.



BELOW ARE LINKS WE HAVE BEEN SENT WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO YOU



Here is the link to the Jan/Feb issue of Families Surrey East Magazine which we have been asked to share with parents.

https://issuu.com/familiesonline/docs/famjan-feb_surreyeast



SURREY URGENTLY NEEDS MORE FOSTER CARERS

**Do you have a spare room?
Could you open your home
and heart to a child?**

Have you considered fostering? Meet a foster family in your local area and hear about their experiences.

Email foster carer **Cindy** at Cindyajmorris@gmail.com for more information and/or to request to join the online event.

Call **07851654544** if you have trouble joining the event!

Find out more about fostering: www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering

**Tuesday
9th February 7:45pm**

**Friday
26th March 7:45pm**

**Thursday
8th April 3pm (half term)**

**FESTIVAL OF
LITERATURE**



Bishop's Stortford College

A parent has recommended the Bishop's Stortford Festival of Literature. It is possible for homeschooling families to get a £1 ticket for this and there is the opportunity for children to email questions to authors.

The link for this is below.

[**The Bishop's Stortford College's Festival of Literature**](#)

**SURREY
ARTS**

Surrey Arts would like to invite your child to our exciting online instrument demonstration on Wednesday 17th February from 5pm to 6pm.

This event will be a fantastic opportunity for children and parents/carers to meet our team of tutors who will showcase and demonstrate many of the instruments available to learn online and ultimately alongside our South West Surrey groups and within your child's school when possible. At the end of the session there will be an opportunity to ask the tutors any questions to help pupils decide which instrument is right for them.

To book a place please email sally.white@surreycc.gov.uk

We hope that your child would like to participate in this exciting opportunity and we look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Surrey Arts Music Service

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/arts/music/lessons-for-children>

