



NEWSLETTER

We are growing together on our journey of achievement with Jesus in our hearts, heads and hands.

www.stjosephs.bracknell-forest.sch.uk

10th November 2020

Dear Parents,

NB: Please note that St Joseph’s School will be **closed to all children over February Half-Term.**

Please find two February Half- Term Camps adverts at the end of this newsletter.

Well done, everyone! You are all doing a fantastic job – the children are participating well, and the work completed is great. We are really proud of you all! The attendance in remote learning is over 90% for most classes and we are nearing 100% attendance in some year groups.

I hope you as a parent are managing balancing home schooling, work and life in general during this National Lockdown. I know it isn’t easy and that there are many challenges. We are all very pleased at how well the children are working. We thank you for the support – you - as parents are giving your children. The pressures during this time vary from family to family and if you have any concerns please contact your class teacher or the school office. No concern is too little so please share!

Remote Learning: Many thanks to all the parents who completed the Remote Learning Questionnaire. Your feedback is most appreciated and helps us further improve our remote learning. The positive feedback is a wonderful affirmation of our success so far and the points for development are valued and instrumental to progress. The challenge for the school is to strike a balance for all stakeholders. For example, on the one hand, we have families who would like more live sessions and on the other, some families are finding that too many live sessions are impossible to juggle with multiple children in the household / own work commitments.

I have captured parents’ comments for each year group below. The following areas for development will be dealt with by the year group teacher bubble over the coming weeks.

	Doing Well	Areas for Development
YR	<p>Everything has been managed wonderfully. Very impressed with everything the school have done to provide the children at home good education despite the circumstances with home learning. So, thank you to all year r teachers. You’re all amazing!</p> <p>I just want to thank everyone the teachers for doing a great work and lots of patient to all the children especially at home the home learning students.</p> <p>Excellent communication. Mrs Gallagher and her team are doing a fantastic job of balancing home learning with teaching the children. We could not be more satisfied with how both she and the school are handling this current situation. Thank you so much for all of your hard work.</p>	<p>It is difficult to have the same impact on motivating your child to learn at home as the excellent job the teachers do in group environments, I don’t think there is anything to be done except we all keep doing the best we can as we are.</p> <p>More activities that the children can do as a class or in groups would be good.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Another call once a week in a small group for individual discussions and sharing home learnings 2. An email or chat message each morning with check list of key tasks for the day. <p>I am on my own with 3 kids and working full time from home so this would be a quick reference following the morning call.</p> <p>We have a few activities than need printing, ink for small home printer can be very costly and</p>

	<p>It feels like you are doing everything you can to keep the children safe & happy. We can't ask for more</p> <p>Mrs G excellent teams plus reading & follow up calls. Would be lost without her!</p>	<p>some parent don't have printer at home. Some activities the children can do with minimum supervision, as both parent work.</p>
Y1	<p>We think the support is absolutely amazing. It is good to know that work can be handed in any time because sometimes it is difficult to get everything completed in the same day. Art lesson was good.</p> <p>Pre-recorded phonics sessions are great.</p> <p>Great support from Miss Tanzer and my child is actually engaging really well with his work.</p> <p>You are supplying plenty of work and the resources to complete them. Also, teachers are sharing their time and support. I'm not quite sure how they are managing it all!</p> <p>Thank you to all the teachers/assistant teachers for all your hard work.</p> <p>Thank you to all the teachers/assistant teachers for all your hard work.</p>	<p>Add all tasks expected of children in assignments so that parents can supervise when they have time and direct their children to do what is required.</p>
Y2	<p>I like the fact that the children have daily contact with their teachers and other children.</p> <p>Having positive approach and doing best to deliver learning in current situation.</p> <p>Daily sessions are going very well. We really appreciate the hard work, videos and projects done by the year 2 team!</p> <p>We feel the teachers are doing an amazing job.</p> <p>The calls are great for the children to connect to their friends and teachers. The way the presentations are adapted and include videos in which the teachers explain concepts - fantastic.</p> <p>There is a good balance between online and offline work. As to the question if too much work is online - it depends on the day, but we know the teachers are trying their best to balance it out.</p> <p>Feedback is prompt. The curriculum is broad, it's great to still do music, art, PE, ICT & Spanish!</p> <p>We really enjoy listening to Mrs. Pearce and Mrs Pay reading.</p> <p>SEND classes with Mrs O'Reilly, my child really benefits from one to one. He is very quiet on the class lessons, which concerns me because a lot of the children are quite confident.</p> <p>Extremely well, we feel very fortunate with the quality of work given and sent back with feedback rather quickly too.</p>	<p>We sometimes struggle with how much writing the children are supposed to produce. Maybe could it be clarified if for example all the RE work needs to be done in writing? Sometimes we struggle and don't complete everything. It would be great if we could talk about the concept and only submit one of the tasks in writing.</p> <p>The Microsoft Teams sessions could be recorded so that children and see they later if they have missed a session.</p> <p>More reading materials to have at home (and encourage the children to read at home), the Oxford Reading is not great as it's a laptop based, they see enough laptops.</p> <p>Printout of worksheets provided</p> <p>More time dedicated to direct online learning with teachers.</p> <p>To have 1:1 meeting with a student once in a while to encourage them to do their best.</p> <p>Sometimes whole class sessions can be overwhelming, too loud or overloaded with information.</p> <p>We are struggling to have all the pieces of work done. We think it would help us to have a view on the plan of the lesson to understand what to prioritise (e.g., 10 daily English lessons on such topic ending by a test).</p>

<p>Y3</p>	<p>This lockdown the year 3 teachers are doing a fantastic job both with live lessons and work set. This is making life at home and home schooling much easier and more effective. All the children in the class are doing the same work. Please keep up the great work.</p> <p>You put together a balanced curriculum that you are delivering both remotely and in-person and did so at incredibly short notice.</p> <p>You have selected a well-known platform to deliver the remote learning (MS teams) which has made it somewhat easier for parents and children to quickly pick up this new style of learning.</p> <p>Daily live calls with the class are excellent and I believe that it will make the world of difference to my child when it comes transitioning back to the classroom after lockdown.</p> <p>Our class has a clear schedule for work and live meetings, which makes it much easier for parents and students to plan their school day around.</p> <p>All teachers that I have contacted have been incredibly quick to respond to my emails/teams messages.</p> <p>I am very impressed with how well the teachers (and the children) have adapted to this new way of teaching/learning, particularly when simultaneously teaching half the class remotely and half the class in person.</p> <p>The live math sessions are great/brilliant for kids to learn different methods of getting the required result. Also, the RE sessions are wonderful because they cannot go to church so the kids can learn on this subject.</p> <p>Thanks for allowing us to pick up the school books, material, lending the kids' books to read and whiteboards that way the kids can see that they are kind of still doing work as if they were going to school, using their own material.</p> <p>Making sure that each kid participate on each sessions - giving the opportunity for them to express.</p> <p>Making sure that kids are not chatting or not paying attention while on they are having online sessions.</p> <p>Sending the right amount of work / homework per subject - They / parents have to understand that it is a school day. So, it is important that they are responsible for their kids learning at this different moment of our lives.</p> <p>It is great that teachers are asking, what the kids</p>	<p>I hope that teachers will add work activities on the same day channel that we will be working on a particular date. I have noticed that some work has been posted a day before for a topic that was going to discuss the following day. If the parent is checking what will the kid learn on Tuesday, we would check the information posted on Tuesday channel (on the night before because we need to print or might be is me because I need to be prepared) - not me checking what was posted for Monday</p> <p>Science: It is a bit challenge because the online sessions video have assignments for year 3,4,5 and 6 kids and it makes it a bit long for the kids - the get lost and disinterest on the topic. I am very grateful for the support we have received. There were teething difficulties in the beginning as expected, but I am feeling more confident now with how things work and where to find the learning and tasks being set.</p> <p>Coronavirus restrictions permitting, it would be great if we could exchange our school library books for different ones now that we have read them. We use Oxford Reading Buddy but would prefer non-screen reading.</p> <p>So far, I have felt that there has been a bit too much work set for my child to be able to complete in school hours. (I do appreciate that setting too much is better than not enough from school's point of view.) We have had to prioritise the work so some guidance on what lower priority is might be helpful.</p> <p>I would like you to record the even the live sessions that are taking place every day so that we can help the child after our work and to know to what extent they are able to get the lessons, help them if they are stuck.</p> <p>The live classes are brilliant and take the pressure off of working parents. We aim to do the maths, reading and English, but often do not have time to complete Science and Arts. Struggling a bit with the assignments as sometimes they are not on a form and unsure whether we need to upload them.</p> <p>We feel extremely well supported at home at the moment and feel the teachers are going above and beyond to help</p>
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	<p>most like during the learning in that week. Mentioning a remote and school learner of the week!!! (wonderful idea). Spanish lessons are great for kids. So as computer and PE. Providing links and online videos, online tests to use to cover school subjects at home. Great pastoral support, trying out new things, adapting things to work better, taking on board feedback. Making online sessions fun and interactive for the children too. Keeping a flexible approach to how much work is being completed is important The school is doing the best to reach every child with their learning and activities every day.</p>	
Y4	<p>The support is amazing. The assignments are clear, supporting material is available. The maths call in the morning is very good to get into the home school day. The everyday maths lessons with work to be done by student later. Feedback on students work, children feel engaged and connected Reading books provided for 5 weeks reading Resources Clarity on tasks for the day Morning teams meeting with teachers. Teachers are doing an amazing job, considering the circumstances. Communicating well with parents Help always available The amount of work is really good as are regular updates! Mr Belchamber shows patience, kindness and focused guidance to support my child's academic development. We are also very appreciative and grateful for the school's transparency in general and specifically related to our child. Thank you very much! Consistency of children's learning at home and teachers hard work to balance children's face to face and online learning. Well done to all teachers!</p>	<p>Add all tasks expected of children in assignments so that parents can supervise when they have time and direct their children to do what is required. Share a list of home equipment required for Empiribox in advance. Materials for science would be very helpful. Online editing the homework template is little bit of time consuming I feel that too much work is being set. I understand that this may not be the case for all children as they all work at different levels. Mr Belchamber has responded to my concerns and he explained not to worry about not getting it all done. One suggestion for this is that when work is set, there is the main work that needs to be completed and then extra tasks that can be done if there is time. This way we would make sure we are doing the core work and not falling behind on this and would know what work is not essential for that day. I think the online lessons are really valuable and would really like for these to continue, but maybe a few more assignments away from the screen would give my child a break from the screen. He sometimes complains of headaches. I think it would be easier to learn geography with a textbook because each new topic is not sufficiently explained by the teacher. As a working parent I would love to have a system whereby all the work for the week is set out so I can plan for it beforehand. Whether that be printing it out or prepare a timetable for my son to work from but that is more my preference as I like to prepare for the day, rather than a school issue. Some live lessons</p>

		would be great, and I think would keep the children engaged too but I get the difficulty of having children at school to teach too.
Y5	<p>Everything!! All teachers are doing amazing under the circumstances and with such short notice of this lockdown</p> <p>Engaging kids in a daily routine and keeping a tab on their education</p> <p>So, I think overall the school and the teachers are doing a tremendous job! I really feel lucky that my kids are attending here!</p> <p>Daily online contact is very good and an absolute must for children who are home-schooling. The biggest challenge we face is keeping our child engaged in the learning. We both work demanding full-time jobs from home and we simply to do have enough free time to home-school. Our child has learned to be an independent learner but the daily direct link with the school has been invaluable. I just wish they could be longer or twice a day, although I do understand the constraints.</p> <p>I think you guys are trying really hard and doing your best Ms McLennan is always very accessible</p> <p>Everything! Really appreciate the work miss McLellan' and team are doing, they are doing their best under the circumstances.</p> <p>Live lessons and regular feedback / help from teacher when we ask or need it. We know it is difficult for everyone, but we appreciate what you are doing, keep up the good work!!</p> <p>There is always support when needed</p> <p>Effective communication via emails at all time</p> <p>Miss McLellan is excellent and checking in and reassuring the children. She has organised teams well so that parents and children can find all the work set for each day.</p> <p>I like the way that we have to send in photos of work as it motivates my child to complete a piece.</p>	<p>Parents are not teachers and despite trying our best, especially working parents, it is not possible to give all the support and attention the children need. There is a lot of stress at home trying to find out how to do the daily schoolwork and making sure, it has been done correctly. We all get frustrated when finding out that our child has missed a class session or a task – in most cases, it was because he did not pay attention or did not look further in the various files.</p> <p>The weekly timetable is great, and it has helped however, there are other lessons and sections that are arranged during the week that we, the parents, only find out if checking the daily discussions (which is not always possible when you are working full time). It would be good if all lessons and assemblies that the children are expected to attend could be included in the weekly timetable.</p> <p>It would be nice to do an additional catch-up session with the teacher at end of day, in case they have questions on that day's work.</p> <p>Having online PE sessions at least 20 minutes.</p> <p>The live lessons are lifesaving, there is interaction, they can see the classmates and it takes the pressure off of the parents.</p> <p>Sometimes my child asks me for help on her maths questions and I'm unable to help as I'm not sure how to do the problem myself.</p>
Y6	<p>Good communication</p> <p>Good Learning resources Remote learning is great for this important year and I am glad there are 3 classes a day. Trying your best to help in current, unplanned learning situation.</p> <p>Mrs Perret - not only teaches online but to a class at school too. She runs multiple lessons daily and makes sure she checks in with every child.</p> <p>Lessons with Mrs P.</p>	<p>Resources/how-to sheets for parents especially for supporting on correct methods for problem-solving in maths</p> <p>More time with the teacher</p> <p>I'm a working parent, I find that children have to spend so much time in front of a computer to complete their work. I understand teachers do their best. No blaming but a thought, as I'm away until 4 pm during the week, I have to help them after coming home. So, they have to spend more time in front of the computer.</p>

Please find our responses below to whole school issues

<p>1-1 sessions/feedback over MS TEAMS</p>	<p>The class bubble teacher/TA may find the time to set up some 1-1 time with vulnerable children. If your child is participating well, then a 1-1 would not be appropriate use of staff's time.</p>
<p>Coronavirus restrictions permitting, it would be great if we could exchange our school library books for different ones now that we have read them. We use Oxford Reading Buddy but would prefer non-screen reading.</p>	<p>The teachers will liaise directly with their parents regards changing the reading scheme/library books.</p>
<p>We have a few activities than need printing, ink for small home printer can be very costly and some parent don't have printer at home. Some activities the children can do with minimum supervision, as both parent work.</p>	<p>If a parent needs any printing, please inform the class teacher who will alert you when it is ready for collection from the school reception.</p>
<p>Share a list of home equipment required for Empiribox in advance. Materials for science would be very helpful.</p>	<p>If a parent needs any science resources, please inform the class teacher who will alert you when it is ready for collection</p>
<p>A quick reference guide advising parents how best to use teams might be helpful for parents. We are on the 3rd week and I understand that we are all learning a new way of teaching (online) but would be beneficial to have had a guidance from the school on where to add work in MS Teams. I think the school should have done a workshop / MS Team session and showing us what to do and what to expect from the tool, I felt that I need to jump from one tab to another and I felt it was disorganised.</p>	<p>MSTEAM has been a challenge for most of us. Even though our staff had completed training – it is a different story when it has to be implemented. As teachers we continually reflect on our provision and make changes – and this has also been the case with MSTEAMS. We are presently researching more MSTEAMS help leaflets and they will be added to the school website (Under Information – Policies). Please contact your class teacher if you need any immediate help.</p>
<p>We would welcome more activities that are not screen-based. Learning should not be just based on screen time There is a lot of screen time and the volume of work means that my child doesn't have time for much of a break away from the screen.</p>	<p>Screen Time is an area that our teachers have been mindful of – however it is difficult to cover the work without a live demonstration/video. The most important work is English and Maths – so please build ensure your child completes these activities.</p>
<p>Provision of some days of school learning for parents having difficulties home-schooling (not just keyworkers)</p>	<p>We understand. I have even heard teachers say, 'Give me a class of 30 rather than teach my own child'. You are doing a great job, do what you can and be kind to yourself!</p>
<p>PE - can they have at least an online session might be Mrs M doing 20 minutes live session of exercises that can be done in a small space (like Joe Wicks session)?</p>	<p>Unfortunately, we do not have the use of our School Hall. It is being used as a staff room and a backup learning area for Footsteps as we have divided nursery class into two groups – to keep the numbers below 15.</p>

Covid-19: Please be aware that as rates of infection are still high in Bracknell Forest, our staff are testing twice weekly via Lateral Flow Test. If a staff member should have a positive test, all bubble members will be asked to self-isolate immediately. The staff member will quickly have a PRC test and only if this is negative will the bubble reopen. The present advice is that the self-isolation (10 days) will start from date of PRC test not the LFT. This means that should any child or member of staff test positive over the coming weeks, then every child and member of staff in that bubble will need to self-isolate at home for 10 days (PRC) regardless of key worker/vulnerable child status.

Parents' Catch Up (Parents' Evening) 1 – 5th

February: All parents should have received an invite to choose a 10-minute slot to talk to your child's teacher. The meeting will take place on MSTEAMS. If you did not receive an invite, please contact your class teacher or the school office. Apart from the live session, there will be no class work set on this day. Each class, however, will have a range of activities that they can complete based on 'Wellbeing'.

As next week is wellbeing week, work set during your child's Parent's Catch-Up Day will be different. The children are invited to choose their work from a grid of 'wellbeing' activities. The teachers will not be expected to give feedback on the work set for this day.

Wellbeing Week, 1 – 5th February: Next week the school will be sending out some information on Wellbeing. Please take the time to read through this valuable information, as Mrs. McLellan and Mrs. Philpott have put a lot of thought into the materials shared.



Reading Books: Please contact your class teacher if your child needs to renew reading book and we can arrange for books to be

collected. We also encourage you to refer to Oxford Reading Tree – / Reading Buddies. In addition to these resources, the Oak National Academy is offering a virtual library. Please encourage your child to pursue this link.

<https://library.thenational.academy/>

Statutory Assessments: As you will have been made aware through media reports, the following statutory assessments will not take place for this academic year:

Year 1 Phonics screening test

Year 2 KS1 SATs

Year 4 Times Table Check

Year 6 KS2 SATs

At St Joseph's, however, will be using teacher assessment and continue to aim for high standards and the best achievement for all our pupils without the pressure of statutory tests. We will continue to use our school tracking and assessment systems and to do the best for our children whether they have been in school or learning remotely.

Pupil Premium Does your child qualify for free school meals? If you are in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Jobseekers Allowance
- State pension credit
- Child tax credit (as long as you are not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, working tax credit run on or universal credit you may be eligible for a free school meal.

Even if your child has the universal free school meal (Year R, 1 and 2) please apply for this benefit. The school receives money from central Government to support a variety of school initiatives that would be of benefit to your child. If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs Baumgart in the school office and you can apply through Bracknell Forest weblink:

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/free-school-meals>

Diocesan Questionnaire: The school has have asked to raise awareness of the diocesan questionnaire and the diocese would like to hear from you. The link can be found here [Diocesan Survey | Portsmouth Diocese](#)

Reflection

To our brothers and sisters who have contracted and are suffering due to the Coronavirus Disease, we pray that God's healing hand may rest upon you.

To medical doctors, nurses and the supporting staff

who are in the frontline of the fight against COVID-19, may the Good Lord sustain you and inspire you to render your life-saving services with due care, love and compassion.

To all those who have lost their loved ones due to the Coronavirus outbreak, we convey our deepest sympathies.

We pray that their souls, through God's mercy, may rest in eternal peace.

We pray that God may grant all bereaved families his consolation and strengthen their faith and hope in Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord.

Amen.

Warmest Regards

Mrs. J. Dunlop

Headteacher



Get Active Sports

Sports, Games, Themed Art & Craft Activities & much more



Get Active Sports Live Virtual After School Clubs

30 Places Available Per Club

Dear Parent/Guardian

Get Active Sports are proud to be offering Live Virtual Sports Sessions to keep your child active and allow them interaction with their friends on a safe platform. With so much generic content available for children via YouTube and other platforms, are offer something different:

- Instant Feedback on various coaching points
- Live Interaction with your Coach
- Live Interaction with children at the School
- Opportunity to ask questions

These Live Virtual Sport Sessions will be done through a live video link on Zoom and can be done through your mobile, tablet or laptop. These sessions will run from w/c 22nd February for 4 sessions costing just £10 per screen!

- Monday Club 4-4:45pm: Years 3-6 Football
- Tuesday Club 4-4:45pm: Years R-6 Arts and Crafts
- Wednesday Club 4-4:45pm: Years R-6 Street Dance
- Thursday Club 4-4:45pm: Years R-2 Football
- Friday Club 4-4:45pm: Years R-6 Friday Fitness

You only need a small space in your house/garden and limited resources. Keep active and social over the school closure period!

What to do next:

To book your club, please go to our website www.getactivesports.com and go to 'breakfast and after school clubs'. Select your school and club and book your session! Once booked, you will receive a link to the session via email and join at the specified time. We look forward to welcoming your child to our live virtual after school clubs soon!



www.getactivesports.com Get Active Sports Get_Active_UK 01344 860868 www.facebook.com/getactivesports



AGES 4-12



GET ACTIVE SPORTS

NHS & Military Discounts

Virtual camp

15th-19th February 2021

Come and join us for some **stay at home** fun over February half term!

All you need is some supplies & a laptop, PC, tablet or phone!

PRICES & HOW TO BOOK

Full Day Session 9:30am-5pm £7.50

Head over to our website www.getactivesports.com. On the day of your session, you'll receive a Zoom link for your club! Use the password provided and enjoy!

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- ✓ Childcare Vouchers
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ACTIVITIES

- Multi-Skills
- Football Skills
- Arts & Crafts
- Talent Shows
- Team Games
- Dance
- Quiz Fun
- Gymnastics
- Scavenger Hunt



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