



NEWSLETTER

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

www.stjosephs.bracknell-forest.sch.uk

12th February 2021

Dear Parents,

We have reached half term safely! I want to take this opportunity to say a massive 'well done' to all of you. These continue to be difficult times for everyone and, by the looks of the work being submitted to the teachers, you are all doing an amazing job supporting your children with their remote learning. I know that, for many of you, this involves juggling your own work while you are supporting your child. Rest assured that you are doing brilliantly in very difficult circumstances. Don't forget, it doesn't matter if you don't get everything done, or if the work is a little late – the most important thing is that your child is continuing to learn and that they are safe. Thank you. Enjoy the half term and hopefully the weather will stay dry.

Thanks to all of the staff as well. You have done incredibly well, providing learning for the children in school and at home, delivering live lessons and recorded videos and providing vast numbers of assignments and activities not to mention the feedback and communications with parents. Enjoy a restful break!

Class Bubbles: We are presently turning away children in certain year groups as we have reached our limit of 15. If the circumstances of any parents changes and you can keep your child at home after half term, please inform Mrs. Dunlop (j.dunlop@stjosephsbracknell.co.uk). This way, we may be able to continue to support as many families as possibly can who need a space.

A reminder of the advice from the DfE document Restricting Attendance during the national lockdown: Schools Guidance for all schools in England January 2021, p25: *"Schools should speak to parents and carers to identify who needs to go to school...Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can."*

If critical worker parents can keep their children at home when another family member is working from home or your shift pattern allows, please do so. This will free up spaces for children whose parents have no other option than to send their children to school.

Full Return to School: As with all communication in the past, the school will find out the Government's return to school plans from their broadcasts. The next information milestone is February 22nd - hopefully their message will be that children can return on the 8th of March.

Lockdown Socialising: It has come to our attention via the catch-up parent sessions that some children are really missing the social interaction that coming to school offers. Our daily live meetings do maintain some contact, but many children would like a more informal forum for socializing. Below is a list of possible social activities which have found to be very successful and socially rewarding. Please do have a go if you get a chance, at setting something up over half-term or in the remaining time of lockdown.

1. Set up a book club with your friends. Parents, carers, elder siblings and children could read to their friends on Teams/Zoom.
2. A zoom playdate with a theme. Some families arrange playdates with themes such as Frozen or pirates.
3. Fitness challenge - some of our pupils have been completing fitness challenges and sharing them with friends.
4. Set up a virtual club i.e., Lego club, baking club.
5. Try a one-to-one chat for your child with a friend. This could become a regular event.
6. Video call while learning a particular subject. Some children have found it very useful to work together on a maths lesson for example.
7. It pains me to suggest it, but gaming appears to be a popular way for children to socialize! Obviously choose games that are appropriate for the age group and use parental controls and supervision to ensure online safety.

Wellbeing: Amid the Covid 19 pandemic, supporting the wellbeing of children has never been so important. SSS Learning have produced a free 10 Top

Tips Parent Resource. This resource is designed to offer advice on how parents can safeguard their child/ren's mental health and promote their wellbeing and is available as a document and short video presentation. The Link is

<https://ssscpd.co.uk/education/parentsandguardians/child-mental-health-10-tips-for-parents/-/pj==>

Half Term Track & Trace: For all children who attended St. Joseph's School week 8 -12th February, the school has been asked to assist PHE by providing information on TRACK & TRACE.

If **your child** develops symptoms on Monday 15th February or later, **DO NOT** contact the school.

If your child develops symptoms **before Monday 15th February**, the child and close contacts/family should self-isolate and a PRC test should be booked for the child. So, if **your child** develops symptoms on Saturday 13th or Sunday 14th February and a subsequent positive test is received, you must email/text: j.dunlop@stjosephsbracknell.co.uk and/or 07909992995

If a child has a positive test, all children and adults in the class bubble (identified as a close contact) will have to isolate for 10 days. This means that the children and adults must not join any other household/support bubble while they are in self-isolation.

Diocesan Questionnaire: We have been asked by the Diocese to raise awareness of a diocesan questionnaire aimed at staff and the school community. The link can be found here - [Diocesan Survey | Portsmouth Diocese](#)

Reflection:

*Dear God,
As I breathe in and as I breathe out,
Help me to remember you.
Help me to love you and to love others.
Amen,*

Wishing you a restful and safe half term

Mrs. J Dunlop
Headteacher

Street dance on zoom!

Year 1-3/4 street dance Thursdays 4-4.40
BEGINNERS/ IMPROVERS 4-4.40pm

Year groups 4-6 Tuesdays **BEGINNERS /IMPROVERS**
4.35-5.15PM

23rd and 25th of February for 5 weeks @£17.50 and additional siblings £8.

If your child has never tried one of my classes, they can attend on the first lesson for £3.50 before signing up for the half term.

Payment needs to be made before the first class. For any further information, please contact:

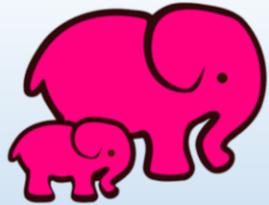
kellywilkins@hotmail.co.uk



CBBC: There has been an exciting revamp to the [CBBC YouTube Channel](#) and this channel may provide entertainment at half term.

Videos suitable for 5–11-year-olds are uploaded daily with a wide range of genres from factual shows, news, dramas, comedy to entertainment. Programmes like Horrible Histories, Blue Peter, Newsround, The Next Step, Saturday Mash-Up, Operation Ouch, the Playlist, the Dumping Ground, Heirs of the Night and Jamie Johnson. We are also welcoming back Dani Harmer in the brilliant new programme My Mum Tracy Beaker.

If interested, subscribe to www.youtube.com/cbbc - (it is completely free to subscribe!) and don't forget to watch the CBBC live daily and on the BBC iPlayer.



Contact:
SleepStudy@York.ac.uk;
07548359133

Website:
<https://sites.google.com/york.ac.uk/the-omg-sleep-study/home>

Social Media:
<https://twitter.com/OmgSleep>;
<https://www.facebook.com/sleep.study.334/>



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Are you a parent with a child under 6?

Research needs you!

We're carrying out research into memory and sleep in parents.

You would be required to complete a memory game on your phone and answer some questions about your daily activities.

You would be entered into 3 prize draws if you complete the study.

Are you yearning for a holiday from real life?

An escape from the pressures of social media, scary news, traffic jams and zoom?

If you would like to step into a different world and live a simpler life, then we would like to hear from you.

A major TV channel is looking for men, women and children of all ages who would like a break from the ordinary, for a number of months in 2021, for a brand-new series.

If you are interested in finding out more, please email us with your name, age and a contact number and tell us briefly why you would like to live a simpler life.



simplelife@fivemilefilms.co.uk

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