

St Bertelina's Church of England (Aided) Primary School

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St Bert's News

Website www.stbertelines.org.uk

1st February 2021

Current Situation

Welcome to week 5 of home learning! First of all I would like to reiterate the Prime Minister's message to say 'Thank You' to those parents and carers who are supporting their children at home. We know you are all in very difficult circumstances - some of you have the luxury of not working, however those of you who are trying to work at home and home school have a very difficult task. This is made all the more difficult by the fact that remote learning of any kind is not ideal for younger children who need to use all their senses in order to learn and generally learn by "actively" doing not "passively" watching.

As parents you have risen to the challenge - some of you are up at the crack of dawn to do your own work so that you can devote time to your child/children or working all day and doing home learning in the early evening having also made meals and done other home tasks. Whichever way as a family you have managed to squeeze in some home learning is fine - whatever you are managing to do as a family is fine no matter how little. Ultimately you are making a sacrifice for the rest of us to stay safe. Your child is protected and safe at home and that is the number one priority. Any home learning you do really is a bonus! Remember reading is the 'key' to success that is your most important task! Some of you will be concerned about your child getting behind.

All I can say is that in order to learn successfully a child has to be happy and content. Your job is to protect them emotionally as well as physically. Play a game, go for a walk or just have fun in the snow (if we get some)! Your child probably won't remember what they learnt in lockdown as much as how they felt - keep that at the forefront of your mind!

I hope we all get back to school as soon as possible. At the moment it feels like our school family is dispersed and we look forward, optimistically, to when we welcome everybody back and we can focus on the big "catch up". In the meantime do your best with home learning but please, please try not to get too stressed in the process - just keep safe!

COVID Figures Week 5

The figures below are our up to date figures for the current term. Obviously the figures pertain to the date and time of publishing this newsletter.

0 children have had a positive test result since Christmas.

0 children are awaiting test results

1 child currently isolating (external contact)

0 staff members have had a positive test result since Christmas

0 staff are awaiting test results.

1 member of staff is self-isolating.

Welcome Heather!



A big St Bert's welcome to Heather Sinclair who is our new Business

Manager. Heather started today and is busy learning the ropes - she has a hard act to follow and wants it made very clear that she is not a pianist (although she does have a Grade 2 certificate)! Please give Heather one of your big St Bert's smiles to make her feel very welcome.

Mental Health Week

This week is Mental Health Week. This is a chance to focus on our mental health and well-being - which has probably been more important than ever of late.

Children and adults both need time and space to focus on themselves. There are a few simple things you can do which can help to keep your mood positive during these winter months of lockdown. Here are a few suggestions below.

- Try to get outside in the daylight hours. A short brisk walk will lift your spirits and do your heart some good.
- Keep a routine. It's hard when you have nothing to get up for, however it is important to try to get up at the normal time and get dressed each day.
- Keep in touch. Talking is a great medicine. Use phone calls/zoom calls to

call those family and friends you haven't seen for a while.

- Sleep. We all feel better after a good night's sleep. Try to keep your bedtime routine and avoid snoozing in the day.
- Do something different. This is a great opportunity to start a new hobby/craft/activity with your child.

February Half Term

Please be advised that school will be **CLOSED** for one week during half term. We will break up on 12th February 2021 and return on Monday 22nd February 2021.

During the half term week, we will be carrying out essential project work in order to update our school WiFi system. This will facilitate the extra demands being made upon it as a result of home learning. A team of contractors will be working throughout the building and hopefully we will benefit from their hard work in the months to come.

Live Stream

We would encourage all children to check their live stream each morning. The live stream will list the day's activities and have reminders for any live lessons as well as recommendations for suitable Bitesize lessons. The teacher usually tries to upload a message by 9am.



BBC Bitesize

Each week we will email you the CBBC Bitesize timetable. BBC Bitesize is available on-line, on

IPlayer and now on TV as well.

If you are working at home I would imagine this to be very useful! Sometimes the teacher will recommend a Bitesize programme which will fit in particularly well with your child's learning otherwise these are really good lessons which are appealing and designed for specific age ranges.

Oak Academy

Oak Academy have produced 100's of lessons which can be easily accessed on the internet. Please visit <https://www.thenationalacademy> and choose your child's year group for appropriate lessons in the various subjects.

These lessons are in addition to the home learning being offered by your child's teacher.

Home Learning Policy

Please visit our school website to see our Home Learning Policy.

Chrome Books

Good news! Having finally received a small number of laptops (despite having a wish list for four times as many) from the Government we are now in a position to help out some of our families. The Chrome Books have now been registered and set up ready for use. If you have been prioritised to receive a Chrome Book then you will be contacted sometime this week.



Home Learning Materials

Just to make you aware that if you are in need of paper, pencils, pens, rulers and any other equipment which will help your child's home school learning, please get in touch.

Year Group Advocate

We are currently looking at the idea of having a Group Representative who can be the voice for a year group. This idea came from a parent who felt it would be useful for other parents to be able to share their ideas or comments through a representative who could speak on behalf of them all. This is a really efficient way of collecting the views and sharing the voice of many, especially at a time when we are not having the impromptu conversations which we are so used to having at St Bert's.

Please let your class teacher know if you think this is a role you would enjoy in the future.

Quote of the Week

We are not all in the same boat; we are in the same storm! The only problem is some have yachts, some have canoes and some are drowning!

Just be KIND and help whoever you can.

Prayers

This week we especially pray for those who are poorly as a result of the pandemic and of course those who have lost a loved ones in recent times. God Bless us all!