

St. Andrew's C of E Junior School Newsletter

Newsletter 12th February 2021
Issue 11

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Diary Dates

Fri 12 Feb

Close for half term

Mon 22 Feb

School closed - staff training

Tues 23 Feb

School re-opens (To pupils who are currently attending during lockdown)



Mon 1 March

Deadline to pay balance for Robinwood June 2021 trip (Yr 6)

Deadline to book a place for Robinwood Oct 2021 trip (Yr 5)

Internet connection

If you are struggling with your internet or do not have the internet at home, please get in touch and we will do our best to help.



Headteacher's Message

You continue to do a great job with home learning everyone. I know that these are challenging times. Thank you. In light of feedback from you all we are going to introduce a 'screen free' time each week where teachers will set tasks that don't require children to be sat at a computer/laptop/tablet. If you are struggling with the online learning, please tell staff when they contact you or email/ring us and we can arrange for you to have paper packs as an alternative. You can return the packs to school each week and staff will mark the work and provide new activities. We introduced our daily Google Meets last week and the feedback has been extremely positive; these will continue every day as parents, staff and children are thoroughly enjoying them!

Tuesday 9th February 2021 was National **Safer Internet Day**. The focus this year was about supporting children to think about how they manage their online identity. We celebrated differences and discussed how we work towards creating a truly inclusive internet. As always, please check the age restrictions on the APPS and games that your children play on, to keep them safe.

Thank you for your continued support and all the positive comments that you send to us, we really appreciate them. Stay safe. Remember HANDS-FACE-SPACE 😊

Reporting of COVID cases in children during half term

If your child has been attending school and tests positive for COVID, having started to feel unwell in the last few days of half term or thereafter, it's really important that you let us know as they may have been infectious whilst in school and other children or staff may need to self-isolate. **Please contact school immediately via our text messaging service on 07786 201172.** Your messages will be picked up daily and responded to. We will seek advice from Public Health and will alert others who are required to self-isolate.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us all to stay safe.



Dear God, Help me spend today, and every day with a smile on my face, love in my heart, joy in his grace and my thinking cap on all day!

Amen

Let's bake!

Year 4 children were recently set a baking challenge! The children worked at home and created a wonderful selection of cakes, buns and sweet treats. It is great to see lots of children engaging in something a bit different and enjoying the results of their hard work. An activity like this can help with mental health as you can do it with family members, it keeps you focused and you get to eat what you make! Well done everyone who had a go. They all looked delicious!



Calderdale Library Service

The Calderdale Library Service is currently offering **free** memberships for access to eBooks, eAudio books, eMagazines & comics.

Visit the link to watch a video on how to join:

https://youtu.be/pvEHn4i_qmQ

It's also **free** to print homework in Calderdale Libraries; From Monday 15th February families can email documents through to the Brighouse Library and they will let you know when they are ready to collect:

brighouse.library@calderdale.gov.uk

NHS Uniform Competition

The Children's Ward at both Calderdale and Huddersfield hospitals are looking to make their uniform more child-friendly. They are asking pupils from local schools to get creative and design a tunic style top. This is an optional task over half term; more information, including a template and how to enter can be found on your child's Google classroom.



Everyone loves a snow day!

Thank you to all the children who sent in their photos for the Year 6 snowman competition. Miss Barker and Miss Riley really enjoyed looking at them. It was lovely to see everyone having fun in the snow. Well done to the winners Lily-Mai Chapman and Thomas Howard.



We keep our children safe by...

reminding adults that if their child has a place in school they MUST drop off and collect their children from the classroom door. This is to ensure that the children are being supervised and are socially distancing from other children in the playground who may not be in their 'bubble'.



CBBC YouTube Channel

CBBC has made an exciting revamp to their YouTube channel. They are uploading videos to it daily that are suitable for 5-11 year olds.

You will find 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. They are also welcoming back Dani Harmer in the brilliant new programme My Mum Tracy Beaker.

If you think your child would be interested you can subscribe to www.youtube.com/cbbc - (it's completely free to subscribe)



Parent questionnaire feedback

Thank you for taking the time to complete our parent questionnaire. Here are just some of the points you have raised so far and what we are doing to help.

Phone calls are being made weekly by teachers and teaching assistants. Phone calls are only being made to the families who have children working from home. If your child is working at school at the moment, phone calls will not be made. However, if you would like to contact your child's class teacher to speak to them on the phone, please contact the school office.

We are aware that the home learning is very IT based and requires the children to be sat at a screen for extended periods of time. We have asked our teachers to set more work which does not require IT whilst still adhering to the National Curriculum.

If you would like more reading books for your child, please send a text to the office or e-mail your child's class teacher and we can arrange a selection of books on your child's level to be made available for collection from the school office. We encourage our families to do this.

Children's Mental Health Week

In our aim to try to improve children and young people's mental health during Children's Mental Health week we would like our parents to take this survey which can be accessed [here](#). The results from the survey will help steer and shape the services Calderdale's Adults and Wellbeing and Children and Young People's Services offer to our children.

We have lots of support available for our pupils and would encourage parents to look at the school website's [safeguarding page](#) which has links to the many services available both locally and nationally. [Open Minds](#) is a particularly useful website which explains to families in Calderdale what support is available in our area.

8 WAYS TO HELP CHILDREN STRUGGLING DURING LOCKDOWN

1



Know how to spot the signs

If you notice your child is becoming withdrawn, that there's been a change in sleeping or eating habits, if they seem to lack confidence or get upset, it might be a sign they're struggling.



2

Talk to your child

If you spot signs your child might be struggling, it's important to talk to them. Keep talking and trying to communicate in any way you can - hugging, listening to them, texting them.



3

Create structure and routine

Try introducing a rota or loose timetable that includes fun things you're doing during the week. This can help to create a feeling of stability, which can alleviate anxiety.



4

Give children a sense of control through information

Look online with your children to find useful information and resources that help children feel they have control.



8 WAYS TO HELP CHILDREN STRUGGLING DURING LOCKDOWN

5

Keep children learning



Using fun and creative ways at home to learn alongside continued access to educational opportunities will support your children's development.



6

Limit screen time and mix up activities



As most socialising moves online, it's important to have conversations on how an increase in screen time can have an impact on everyone's mental health and self-esteem.



7

Help your child manage stress



If you spot signs your child might be struggling, it's important to talk to them. Keep talking and trying to communicate in any way you can - hugging, listening to them, texting them, etc.



8

Expressing feelings doesn't have to be face-to-face



Children might find it easier writing their thoughts down, so the whole family could do this and put them in a 'feelings box' and then talk about their good, sad or difficult feelings at the end of the day.

