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St Lawrence Weekly

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Headteacher's Spotlight

As you are aware, our plans to have all pupils back in school on Tuesday 5th January were dramatically halted on Monday night. Following the U-turn, everyone at St Lawrence's worked amazingly swiftly to get a new plan in place - I'm proud that we still opened up on Tuesday for children needing emergency places, when many schools closed. A huge thank you must go out to all parents and carers who adapted to the new arrangements late Monday night, having only received my Parentmail several hours earlier telling everyone that school would be fully open. We therefore avoided a 'one-day' return scenario which happened to a lot of schools across the country that opened on Monday. The virus (especially with the new strain) is spreading furiously and limiting the number of pupils in schools to keyworker children and the most vulnerable is the wisest approach - the scientists and NHS leaders need to be trusted! We currently have approximately 60 pupils in school, about 1/4 of the number on roll and need to keep it at about this level. We have a few more pupils starting with us on Monday and unless circumstances suddenly change at home we do not expect/or want to see an increase, until it is safe for all children to return. We have the following bubbles in school:

Nursery
Fox/Hedgehog
Owl/Badger
Y3/4
Y5/6 Cedar
Y5/6 Pine/Birch

The number of bubbles we have is safe and manageable. Importantly, we have the right balance of staff in the classrooms to teach children face to face AND out of the classroom to support all the pupils (75%) who are working at home. Once again parents/carers need to take on the role of education facilitators in their homes - we know how difficult this can be but we'll clearly be leading this with set activities on EExAT (EYFS/Y1) and Seesaw (Y1 - Y6). We are looking forward to seeing all the amazing photos of work and those brilliant (often amusing) videos.

The government's message is clear that all pupils must engage with home-learning and evidence of this is required (3-4 hours of work per day). We have been instructed to bring any children into school who are not working successfully from home (something we do not want to do - see above). Laptops and other resources/materials etc can be requested in order to help children learn at home. Phone calls home will start next week and I urge you to ask for help if you are struggling in any way - or alternatively email class teachers, Zoe Robinson, Anna, Forster, Admin or me! We made lockdown schooling work last time around and I'm confident that we can do so again - communication is the key!

Two posters are attached with this newsletter - one for parents, one for pupils with some handy hints on how to make a success of learning at home. NB. Wearing uniform at home as one of the posters suggests is something I would not think necessary. Don't forget to exercise and please record how far you have walked each day - we want to work out how far we can travel by foot collectively. Our local hills are beautiful and great for hiking in, but do take care in the wintery conditions and remember to keep to all the rules re. social distancing.

Please remember that the gates will be open each morning between 8:30 and 8:45 for drop off and for collection between 3:00 and 3:15 (1:00 and 1:15 on Fridays).

Due to uptake, Breakfast Club will now be closed from Monday until further notice.

Take care everyone and keep trying your best!

Alan Brannen
Headteacher
head@st-lawrenceprimary.co.uk

MCS Church
In a bag

Stretton Parish

The Shepherd

This month your
Messy Church in a Bag
will be delivered to your house!

If you would like to sign up and book your delivery please do so using the link on the flyer being sent out with this newsletter.

Pastoral Newsletter from Mrs Robinson and Mrs Forster

zoe.robinson@st-lawrenceprimary.co.uk
anna.forster@st-lawrenceprimary.co.uk



Stay
Safe Be
Kind



Hello again everyone! 😊

We hope you have had a very Happy Christmas, and that although 2021 hasn't started as we would have wished, you are keeping safe and feeling ok.

We will be writing a Pastoral Support page for the weekly School Newsletter during this new lockdown, and will be filling it with useful information, top tips, and ideas for maintaining good mental health during these difficult times. We hope that you find this page of use. Please send any feedback or ideas to Mrs Forster's email address (at the top of the page) - we love hearing from you!

With very best wishes, *Mrs Robinson and Mrs Forster x*

Five Mental Health Tips for Lockdown

Here are five top tips for staying well during lockdown, all beginning with C! (Click on the link below for details)

[Coronavirus: Dr Radha's five mental health tips for lockdown - BBC News](#)

Control	Take control of what you can, try to let go of things which you can't control.
Care	Look after yourself and your physical health.
Continuity	Keep up your usual routines and habits, such as what you watch and listen to.
Creativity	Be creative in whatever way suits you; bake, draw, sing, build, dance – and have fun!
Compassion	Be kind to others.

Christmas Holidays Gratitude List

Write a list of all the things that happened in the Christmas Holidays that you are grateful for. These don't have to be presents! It could be playing with your pet or a brother or sister, playing in the snow, or having a chat on Zoom with your family. Anything which made you feel good. If you feel sad or worried, you can then read your list and remind yourself of good things that you have experienced.



The Strettons Food Bank

**FOOD BANK IS OPEN EVERY FRIDAY
FROM 2.30pm TO 4pm
AT ST LAURENCE'S PARISH CENTRE,
CHURCH STREET, CHURCH STRETTON, SY6
6DQ**

**BUT IF YOU NEED FOOD URGENTLY
PLEASE USE CONTACT DETAILS BELOW
[If you have any queries please phone
or text 07561-693870](#)
[or contact Mayfair Community centre –
01694 722077](#)**