



St Lawrence Weekly

12 February 2021 Volume 19, Issue 20

Headteacher's Spotlight

This half-term has been tremendously challenging and I want to praise all parents who have stepped up (again) to be educators at home - your efforts have certainly been recognised by all of us at school. Together we have enabled our local critical workers to keep busy in their roles tackling Coronavirus and we have significantly reduced the spread of Covid-19 in the local area by ensuring most people have stayed at home. Pupil numbers at school have crept up and we have all six of our bubbles above the intended capacity of 15 (one has 19 pupils in it). I know it is tough, but we need as many pupils as possible to be kept at home until the lockdown period is over and the government gives us the green light for a full return (8th March is the target date). Hopefully, a week's break from activities will re-energise all parent/carers to go again for two more weeks! Teachers, TAs and all other school staff will certainly be taking a well-earned break - they have been working harder than ever - and therefore won't be responding to anything posted on Seesaw next week. I'll still be reading my emails daily so do get in touch if necessary - remember, we still need to know about any positive coronavirus cases (fingers crossed there won't be any).

As so many of you did such an excellent job with the Big Garden Bird watch, here are details of another fun and worthwhile survey: [Star Count 2021](#) (click on this link to find out more). This survey is lockdown friendly and we can all take part in it as citizen scientists! The survey needs to be undertaken before or on 14th February on a clear night (after 7:00pm). You need to do it tonight, Saturday or Sunday. There are specific rules, so please study the details in the link before star gazing. Church Stretton is famous for being a great place to view the night sky so hopefully you will see lots of stars!

You will be able to book you next call home on the Parentmail app this weekend, these calls will take place after the half-term break. Have a restful half-term everyone!

Alan Brannen
Headteacher

head@st-lawrenceprimary.co.uk

St Lawrence Lockdown Arts Award Discover

To tie in with the wonderful painting tutorials of Rory McCann, we are running a lockdown version of Arts Award Discover. Arts Award is a range of unique qualifications for children and young people. Through completing activities and researching artists, the aim is for children to become more passionate about the arts.

Posted as a Seesaw activity for Years 2-6, the virtual logbook will allow children to complete Arts Award Discover at home. The booklet will ask your child to do the following:

- Take part in two art activities.
- Find out about an artist.
- Share what you have found out.

Once the booklet is complete and has been moderated and the fee of £7.50 has been paid, your child will receive their certificate from Trinity College London, to pass the Discover level. This payment can be sent online via sQuid. If your child would like to be involved, please book your place on sQuid now!

Once lockdown is over, we will aim to have a pop-up art gallery in a location to be determined. The gallery will celebrate the achievements of the children and their determination during this difficult period.

The activity will be scheduled to go live 8am Monday 15th February and will close 5pm Monday 8th March.

Good luck
Mr Reynolds



St Lawrence CE Primary School & Nursery

Your school needs you!

Join us at our AGM,
2nd March from the comfort of your home!



Why join us:

- Friends is becoming increasingly important to the school with budgets being cut, you really are vital to our success.
- Its fun! suggest, plan and help run events, get the whole family involved.
- Feel more connected. Help influence events and spending by being part of the team.
- Its flexible, give as much or as little time as you like, from half an hour at the christmas performance to standing on the committee.

AGM 2nd March, 8pm on Zoom!

contact us for meeting ID and password.

For further details and meeting ID and password email - friends.stlawrence@outlook.com or message us via our facebook page!



Hello everyone!

We have reached half term! It's such a relief to have made it, but alongside the relief we wonder if you, like us, are wondering how to fill a lockdown half term in winter? This week's newsletter focuses on ideas for things to do to keep everyone busy, stimulated, happy and active. We hope that they are useful.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Robinson and Mrs Forster x

Some Ideas for Half Term

Celebrate Shrove Tuesday with pancakes - yum!

Celebrate Valentine's Day - who could you make a card for?

Camp out indoors - set up camp in the living room, turn off the gadgets, eat by the 'campfire' (could you make one out of tissue paper and cardboard?), snuggle down and tell each other stories ☺

Go on an outdoor treasure hunt or do forest school in your garden.

Put on a show - will you sing, dance or perform a play? Can you invite your family to watch over Zoom?

Bake a cake -there are lots of online tutorials for children.

Paint a picture - have you done all of Rory's videos yet?

Connect with family and friends on Zoom - perhaps you could eat 'together' and have a party?

Have a movie night - who's making the popcorn?

Make a memory box or scrapbook about the past year.

Set yourself a physical challenge - could you do a Joe Wicks every day? Learn a new dance (there are masses of dance lessons available online)? Improve your PB over a 5k course?

Don't forget to look after yourself and your own wellbeing this half term as well!

Be creative

Eat well

Maintain good sleep habits

Take exercise

Try something new

Practice mindfulness

Connect with others

Be kind

Try to make time for yourself

Are you struggling to meet the cost of essentials? There is financial support available from Shropshire Council.

If someone is told by NHS Test and Trace Service to stay at home and self-isolate, they may be able to get a £500 **Test and Trace Support Payment**. For the qualifying conditions and to apply see here: <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits/what-help-can-i-claim-from-the-council/covid-test-and-trace-support-payments/>

Sometimes, this may not be enough to address all of the problems and not everyone will qualify so whether eligible for this or not, we urge people to **think about applying for the other discretionary help** that is available via the Council.

For our more vulnerable households either affected financially by Covid or just struggling to meet essential bills over lockdown and over winter, there are **other Hardship Funds that can help with a wide range of need**. These grants are open to anyone in difficulty, it is not necessary for family to be in receipt of benefits. The Council wants to get this money to those **Shropshire householders, especially families with children, who are struggling financially**.

It is easy to apply over the phone (a paper form is available on request), an adviser will complete the paperwork and a specialist will look to see how we can help and if any further information is needed.

If you or anyone you know could benefit from this financial support, please contact the Council on the **Covid helpline - 0345 678 9078**. People can also access these grants and a range of other Covid related support through our web pages

here: <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/> .

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