

THE SCOOP

Issue 5

Friday 8th January 2021

Focus on: Perseverance

January

Mon 4th - Back to school

Tue 5th - Remote Learning starts

Fri 8th - School Newsletter

Wed 15th - Closing date for Reception places for 2021/2022

Fri 22nd - PTA Newsletter

Mon 25th - SCHOOL ART WEEK - live and online art lessons throughout the week!

February

Fri 7th - School Newsletter

Mon 8th - CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK AND SAFER INTERNET DAY— live and online sessions to support mental health including live yoga with Miss Ladley for each group

Wed 10th—Mid-year report to parents

Fri 12th - end of term!



St James'

Church of England
Primary School



Welcome Back! Welcome Back! Welcome Back! Welcome Back!



What a start to term!

As I have mentioned in my recent correspondence; we were as shocked as you to find out that all schools would be closing to all children with the exception of those that are vulnerable and the children of Critical workers from Tuesday, particularly as Boris had said that schools would be open in an interview on Sunday morning!

Our staff have done what they do best, with months of behind the scenes planning, training, development, purchasing of new technology, setting up of user accounts and working together we have developed a remote learning approach which supports everyone at home. With a large number of children in school we have created a system which means that the teachers are freed up for parts of the day to ensure that the quality of work for home learners is excellent and that they have the time to dedicate to liaising with the children, reading their work and commenting on it when they give whole class feedback.

Teaching Assistants are spending most of their time in the classroom and the children at school are learning from the same work that is going home (even accessing the teacher on the screen!). We are keeping all doors and windows open in school and children are sitting in their coats and woolly hats; where possible we are enabling better social distancing than when school was full and staff are now wearing masks in all public spaces (classrooms are mask free areas).

We have already this week had a few of our school community isolate for testing purposes and we are prepared for year group bubble shut down if needed. Our systems and structures are even more rigid than previously as the virus appears to be creeping closer and closer to the school gate. Rates are rising rapidly in our community.

In order to make sure that you and your children are well supported at home we have been busy trying to support you with technology; please remember to call with any issues you have—we will try to help or call our tech team, focus. We are still waiting for the laptops that we have been promised which we will be able to loan to you as soon as we have them. We really want to make it as easy as possible for you but as always things take a little time to filter through. This week Mrs Smith has been working with our in-house coach from Move More to provide some PE lessons for you at home and we are also looking forward to our Arts Week and Mental Health and Well-being weeks (both have been moved a week later to allow for planning). These will be explained further in the next week or two!

As always, we were sad to not open to you all on Tuesday and are trying our utmost to ensure continuity in learning and the curriculum for all children and use live teaching and face to face time when possible; this is only the first week and already we have come so far but plan to increase our offer as we become better acquainted with the children's needs.

Sending you all our best wishes!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US!

Lisa Harford—Headteacher

COVID INFORMATION

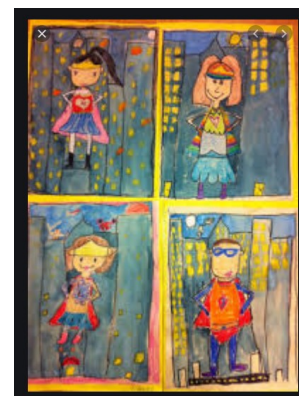
This is all contained in our school book bag in a new January 2021 section: <https://stjamesbookbag.home.blog/january-2021-documents-and-letters/>

These are the letters that are being emailed out but can also be found here in one place.



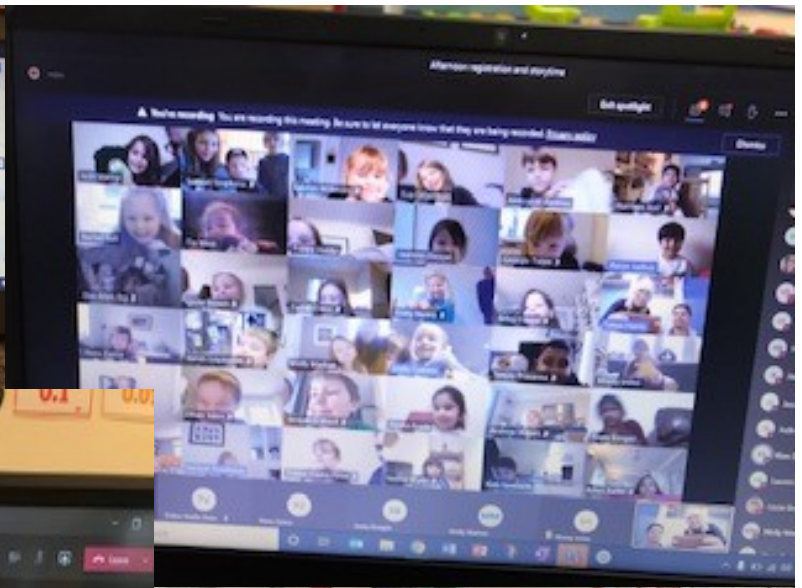
Arts week will start on the 25th January and we are all really excited! We are planning a series of live events through the week and art lessons daily. We are busy at the moment trying to get some 'real' artists to help with this! Please email us if you can help or know of someone who would like to - we are looking for any media of artist: painters, sculpture, willow, illustrators, photographers. We are hoping that we can offer some live teaching (or recorded depending on the artist) that can be done virtually with materials in the home! We already have a foil jewellery artist booked! Watch this space...

Our theme will be Heroes and Leaders (how appropriate)!



We will also be continuing with children's mental health week with work around well-being and supporting our children through this third lockdown! Miss Ladley will be holding a live yoga session for each year group and we are currently trying to book GHLL and the police for talks and support...Our children's mental health really matter!

What does Remote Look like across our school today!



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US!