

Value of the month – Forgiveness

COVID-19 - Stay Home, Protect the NHS & Stay Safe - Week 2!



Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope that everyone is well. I think that it is safe to say that we are all still adjusting to being home and finding our way around new ways of managing working from home, communicating and learning online. We are missing you all and seeing each other in school.

School Opening for Vulnerable Children and Key Workers

The Staff and I would like to thank the Parents accessing this support for their consideration and kind words. It is a difficult time for us all and everyone has been most thoughtful. We are endeavouring to ensure the children have positive and fun experiences. We hope you like the pictures of a couple of their projects.

I would also like to thank my Staff for their dedication in being on rotas to support the Government Initiative. We have managed very well so far, but there is still some way to go, with the most critical times approaching in the next 2-3 weeks. By being in school the Staff are also taking risks with their health and that of their families.

Please remember as we enter the most critical period - The updated Government advice is clear that even for Vulnerable Children and those children of Critical Workers – **where there is someone at home, the children are safest looked after at home** in order to reduce the spread of the disease. Please respect this, we do not want any child or adult exposed to the virus when there is a safe alternative.

Easter Holidays: The Staff are obviously not contracted to work in their holidays and so have been asked to volunteer to cover over the Easter Holidays – which they have. We will therefore only open where there is real need and we are now planning for this. If Parents of critical workers and vulnerable children have not already confirmed with the office their rotas, please do this by Thursday.

Home Learning

The Staff will not be setting any home learning for the Easter Holidays. This will give families time just to be together and to 'catch up' on any outstanding home learning. Please do not worry if you cannot manage the learning, the class emails are in place – just let the teachers know if you are having difficulties. We don't want any family stressing over home learning. A little bit at a time is all that is needed. Just try and maintain reading, spelling and timestables practice sessions. (It is good to see our children playing against our Deanery Schools on Timestables Rockstars – keep going on the next challenge!)

Foodbank and Crisis Support

Do please contact me via the office email office@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk if you experience difficulties during the coming weeks. We monitor the email daily. I have access to those that can support families via the local Foodbank, the Church SVP and Diocese Crisis Fund. Do not hesitate to ask – there is no need for any of our families to be in need.

Useful sites and ideas for the weeks ahead

Please see the list (**scroll down**) which may be of use. We will share more as time goes forward.

Mass: The Church Links are on the list to help families find online Sunday Masses. EWTN has the programme of the Pope's recent Urbi et Orbi Extraordinary Blessing, which was beautiful. Worth watching if you missed it.

Let us remember in these difficult times to keep praying together as a school and Parish(es) communities. There is always comfort and strength to be found in our prayers for one another.

Wellbeing, Mental Health and SEND Support

The coming weeks will be difficult for all families. We will not be aware of your worries unless you share them and we actively encourage you to contact us for any help – even if it is just to talk through worries. We monitor our emails and will ring you – we are always happy to talk things through and help or signpost if there are worries or concerns. If you require any specific well-being or SEND support for you and your family please do contact Mrs Dommett via the link on the SEND page of our website, or for other queries via the office email admin@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk.

Online Safety & Reporting Problems

In light of the new ways we are all finding to communicate and to access online learning it is timely to remind everyone of the following sites that may be supportive for reporting and learning about online safety.

Please check that your Parental Controls are in place and that the sites the children are accessing are monitored closely. Also, continue to discuss online safety with the children regularly and keep reminding them to tell you if something worries them.

<https://reportharmfulcontent.com/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety>

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> (Also has a section for children to support their understanding of online safety)

<https://parentinfo.org/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Ideas for School Closure	
Films	Board/Card Games
Hidden Figures (PG)	Bananagrams – great for spelling KS1 and KS2
David Attenborough – any!	Scrabble
Horrible Histories Movie	Trivial Pursuit (Kids Version)
Early Man	Monopoly
Roald Dahl Films – Mathilda, BFG etc	Snake and Ladders (making your own board is fun too!)
Dick King Smith Film - Babe,	Pictionary
E B White – Charlotte's Web	Chess
Charles Dickens - Oliver	Chequers/Draughts
Classics/Family Favourites: Heidi, Little Princess, The Secret Garden, The Railway Children, Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe	Card Games eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Draw two cards and add or multiply, record and see who wins with the highest score. 21/Blackjack
Series of Unfortunate Events on Netflix - Upper KS2	
Goodbye Mr Tom	
Up	
When Goodbye is forever	
Lion King	
YouTube	
Sites for Parents to look at – useful free video clips	
A very useful clip on teaching joined handwriting. https://debbiehepplewhitehandwriting.com/	This is a useful phonics site – look at the free videos on how to say the sounds correctly when teaching children to read. Debbie Hepplewhite is involved in writing Floppy Phonics – our school synthetic phonics reading scheme. https://phonicsinternational.com/
These two sites currently have a 14 day free trial on them, which I believe is being extended to help people out in the current situation www.spellingshed.com www.mathshed.com	Oxford University Press for Reading https://global.oup.com/education/children/more/parents/?region=uk Free e-books https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/?region=uk
To follow messages etc from the Pope EWTN.com	http://www.caterhamcatholic.co.uk/Sacred_Heart_Catholic_Church/public.html Mass is live-streamed.
Cafod have some lovely resources for Lent and for prayer. cafod.org.uk	Further Masses can be found via live stream here: https://www.churchservices.tv/
Wintershall have edited some of their workshop material for families to use at home in the lead up to Easter and beyond.	
The website page is https://www.wintershall-education.com/resources/resources-family/	
They have begun with Stations of the Cross pilgrim bags.	
Sites to use with children	
We follow White Rose Maths Planning in school – an excellent site that is posting regularly for Parents https://whiterosemaths.com/	FYI on Sky TV Twitter @FTI_SkyTV @skykidsofficial and www.firstnews.co.uk

Animated Beowulf – KS2 https://youtu.be/QKjcoFZmKuA	Cant you Sleep Little Bear https://youtu.be/u1ajimzuzbg
Bible Stories for Kids https://youtu.be/AhD9mATu5qk	The Very Hungry Caterpillar https://youtu.be/75NQK-Sm1YY
WildEarth Kids – Sunrise and Sunset Safari – https://youtu.be/SDbwjoJcWOA Fab live safari from Djuma Conservation Reserve in the Sabi Sands, South Africa. Very educational – the presenters are very good at wildlife explanations from Butterflies to the Big Five. Parental Warning: Discretion is advised! It is live and ‘real’ – Informative and educational, but be aware, very occasionally there may be animal chases, kills, carcasses & mating seen! They stream live and then post later, so parents can watch it and check if it is appropriate for their children	David Attenborough Planet Earth Giraffes Africa's Gentle Giants BBC Documentary HD 2017 (Parental Advice: One small section towards the end on poaching) https://youtu.be/tapJy94gC1U
Port Lympne Wildlife Park Lion Cam – Live cam footage of the Aspinall Foundation Safari Park Lions: Mum & Dad - Oudrika and Adras and three grown Cubs - Khari, Binti & Kulinda! https://youtu.be/h8xUboH6GZI The Website also has KS1&2 resources that can be downloaded	Body Coach - 5 Minute Workouts for Kids or 9am: Body Coach TV https://youtu.be/d3LPrhI0v-w
Fun Stuff!	
Paper Aeroplanes – build and have a family flying competition	Tell the time – using analogue clocks – <u>NOT</u> digital. Make a clock and add the numbers and 5 minute intervals. Work on times ‘past’ and ‘to’, counting in 5s etc
Make a parachute - out of household items and materials – test it out – measure drops/speeds - whose works best? Parental supervision: when dropping parachutes from heights!	
Cookery: Follow a recipe	Maths links – measure ingredients, time the cooking

Home Learning: Timetabling a Day

We have had queries about how to space a day to maintain a 'school like' routine. A suggested (not compulsory!) timetable that sticks to a school day may look like this grid below – feel free to use and adapt or ignore!

Time	Activity	To Do Suggestions
7:30 to 9:00	Get up	Morning Activities: Have breakfast, wash and brush teeth etc Morning chores: make your bed!
9:00 to 9:30	Exercise	Morning exercise eg: try following the Body Coach 5 minute exercise YouTube clips
9:30 to 10:10	Academic Time	Home Learning – get your packs out!
10:10 to 10:30	Reading, phonics, spelling	Read for pleasure, practise spellings
10:30 to 10:45	Playtime	Have a healthy snack - fruit
10:45 to 11:30	Academic Time	Home Learning – get your packs out!
11:30 to 12:15	Household chores time	Parents to decide! (Hoovering, gardening, learning how to sort the washing and put it in the machine, dusting etc)
12:15 to 1:15	Lunchtime	Cooking: Can you help make the lunch?
1:15 to 2pm	Academic Time or Creative time	Home Learning – get your packs out! Creative: Draw, paint, music, lego etc
2:00 to 2:45	Physical Activity	PE: Dance , Yoga, jog, walking
2:34 to 3:30	Reading	Read for pleasure
3:30 onwards	Help make Dinner Free time – TV, board games, jigsaws, etc Bedtime	Brush your teeth, story time and bedtime Well done and Goodnight!

Best wishes to you all, stay well and do keep in touch – let us have the odd photo of what you are doing at home so that we can share it on the next newsletter – it can be one more way of keeping in touch.

Mrs Wheeler, the Staff and Governors