



St Anne's Church Academy @Hewish & @West Wick



Term 3
Wednesday 27th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Sorry to confuse you, it is not Friday. An early newsletter to keep you updated about a few things.

We are now in week four of lockdown and I completely appreciate that it is so much harder than the previous lockdowns. The weather is wet and cold and it is dark in the mornings and the evenings. It is harder to get outside. Remote learning expectations are much higher this time and we are all feeling the strain. Now is the time to really be kind to ourselves. We are all doing a great job. We are doing our absolute best and that is all we can do. Helping your children with their remote education can be hard work- we know that. You are all doing brilliantly. Please try not to worry about your children falling behind or not wanting to do something. Keep being supportive. Talk to school. We are here to help. This **will** end and we will have all our children back into school where we can fill any gaps that need filling and we can ensure that our children can continue to make progress alongside their peers. In the meantime, keep doing what you are doing as best you can. Try to take breaks and get outside when you can and remember to be kind to yourselves.

I am trying a squat challenge everyday – today was 60 squats! Tomorrow is 80! Wish me luck!

Take care

Emma Hardy-Smith

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Follow me on Twitter @StAnnes_EHS



STAFF TESTING

This week, we have started implementing twice weekly lateral flow Covid testing for all school staff. This very positive development will help us to make sure our school is as safe as possible. Twice weekly screening will help us to identify any staff who are asymptomatic.

Please be aware that this could lead to the closure of a class bubble on site at very short notice. Test must be carried out in the morning for accuracy and this leaves very little time to find cover for a bubble or to get notice out to the families using our critical worker facility on site. If we are forced to close a bubble we will email families using Teachers2parents and add further alerts on Facebook and Twitter. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

REMOTE EDUCATION

Thank you to all parents and carers who completed the remote learning feedback form. I am very pleased to say that the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. We have listened to your feedback and are making improvements to our remote offer every week. We know that it is very hard to educate children at home especially for parents who are also working from home. As we enter week 4 of remote education, we know that it just getting harder as everyone's enthusiasm is waning and the reluctance to engage in remote learning increases. We want you to know that you are all doing an amazing job. Parents and grandparents are being recognised as learning champions along with the children during our Friday celebration worships! We are very grateful for the enormous effort you are making to ensure your child keeps going with their learning and we are blown away with the quantity and quality of children's remote learning. Please keep up the support and encourage your children to engage with their learning in any way they can. There are daily videos to support and engage your children. Please continue to share your child's learning with their teacher either by uploading on Google classroom or by emailing work. You can also drop off paper based learning for feedback too. There are still a number of Year 6 work booklets that have not been collected from our Hewish site. These booklets contain short activities that your children could be doing independently which may help to keep children engaged. If you haven't picked yours up yet please do.

We want our children to be happy and safe and to know that we are still here and we are thinking about them and you all the time. We are always here to help. Please contact school if we can help in anyway. If you need some paper based learning t support Google classroom, please ask.

LIVE

We are very keen to enhance our remote learning offer and are excited to be introducing some 'live' check ins between our children and teaching staff so that children can talk over what they have been doing, say hello to their class mates and generally feel more connected to the social aspect of school life. Mr Phillips is going to draw on his earlier lockdown experience of using Zoom for Jill Dando interviews and meetings to trial check ins with his class (Year 5 @ Hewish) this week and we will look to roll out to other classes next week. Please look out for an email from Mr Phillips with a zoom link. More information on how we will undertake this with other classes will be sent out shortly.

READING



Bug Club

Reading is absolutely fundamental to every child's education and it is crucially important that children are reading and listening to stories during lockdown. Reading with your children is a great way to improve their vocabulary and support their reading progress. Our teaching staff are all working hard filming themselves reading to ensure that there are lots of stories to listen to on every Google classroom.

If you are running out of books at home, every child has a log in for the Bug Club app where children can read a variety of books and extracts at an appropriate level. Teachers can log children's progress when they read the Bug Club books and answer all the questions. If children don't want to read a whole book, perhaps magazines might be more inviting. Here is a free offer for all families.

WE ARE HEROES STORYTIME MAGAZINE



Each issue of We Are Heroes contains myths and legends that have parallels to lockdown experiences that children could be facing, with additional activities produced in consultation with a children's mental health expert. Issue 4 is the latest edition and is themed 'Families together and apart' featuring The Battle for Troy & Romulus and Remus and can be accessed via this link: [We Are Heroes 4 - Families Together and Apart](https://www.storytimemagazine.com/we-are-heroes/) Each issue is free to download and more information together with previous issues can be accessed here: <https://www.storytimemagazine.com/we-are-heroes/>

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Next week is children's mental health week. The theme this year is to explore the different ways we can **express ourselves**, and be creative about ways to share our feelings, our thoughts and our ideas. We will be promoting the importance of looking after our mental health throughout the week with our morning messages, activities, stories, wellbeing discussions and worships.

The week will end on Friday 5th January which is '**Dress to Express**' day for everyone! We will be inviting our whole school community both on site and at home to dress to impress and we would love you all to upload a photo on to Google classroom or email a photo of your child and family dressed to impress to your teacher or me emma.hardysmith@stannesprimaryschool.co.uk so we can collate them and make a lovely film of all you lovelies!

On Friday 5th in the afternoon we will be starting our screens free afternoon by setting one activity for the whole family to enjoy .Here is the activity. How will you choose to express yourself?

Express Yourself

In how many different ways can you express your emotions?

Here are some ideas:

Drawing – splashing paint or taking your pencil for a walk...

Sports - Dancing, running, football...

Music – singing, dancing, playing an instrument...

Nature – family walk, making different emotions in nature...

Any other creative idea!

UNIFORM

Just a reminder that children attending school should be still be wearing school uniform. The same high expectations of uniform rules apply. Children may wear dark joggers or similar warm trousers to keep warm as the windows are open but please encourage your child to wear appropriate school uniform. School jumpers should be worn.

RSPB 'BIG GARDEN CHALLENGE'

Here is a nice little weekend activity for you and your children to take part in that will get you away from screens. The RSPB 'Bird Spotting' challenge, please note that the RSPB 'Big Garden Birdwatch' is taking place this weekend , Friday 29th to Sunday 31st January'. You can register online via: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>



This provides the perfect excuse to spend an hour outside in your garden or local park and contribute to this fantastic national bird study, whilst getting some fresh air and exercise. Enjoy

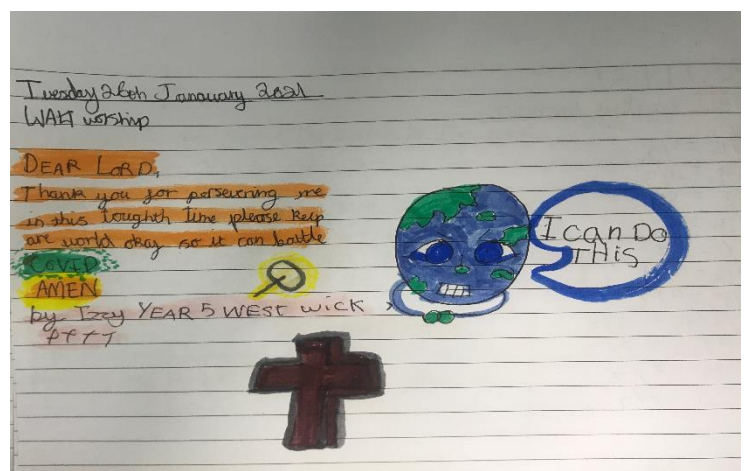
Please encourage your children to use our school learning apps to practise spellings and times tables: The subscriptions for these apps are very costly. Please make use of these brilliant apps to support vital basic skills for your children. Little and often will really help.



Our value for this term is **Perseverance** which is a very apt value for all of us at the moment as we are coping with these challenging circumstances especially as the weather is so cold and wet. Worship this week focused on keeping going and not giving up even when times are hard.

Please remember to be kind to yourself. You are all trying your best and that is all you can do. Please let school know if we can help in any way. We will get through this together!

Izzy (year 5@ WW) has become a regular prayer writer. Here is her latest offering.



For anyone who needs some help to persevere, there is lots of support available. Please click on the links below:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/>