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@StStephensPri



Newsletter

22nd January 2021

St Stephen's Primary Church School

Happy Friday!

Lateral Flow Testing for staff... This week, the government has introduced regular covid testing for staff to increase the likelihood of detecting asymptomatic cases. The Lateral Flow Testing will be carried out from home twice a week by staff who are working in school.

A positive test will mean that all key worker and vulnerable children in the affected year group will need to stay at home and move to online learning immediately. Staff will be carrying out the tests two evenings a week and will notify Ms Flynn and myself of a positive test immediately. We will then text and email parents in the affected year group. Typically, the tests will be taken on Sunday and Wednesday evenings, but this will be adapted for part time staff to fit in with their working patterns.

During the first day of the closure, I will liaise with public health to discuss the exact level of contact and determine the appropriate length of closure. This will of course be communicated with you immediately.

Phoning School... An important part of keeping everyone in school as safe as possible is reducing the number of people we have on-site at any one time and this means that there is often only one member of staff in the office at the moment. If you phone school and there is no answer please bear with us – Mr de Albuquerque or Miss Hocken will be there somewhere, but may have been called away from their desk or might be on another call. Thank you for your understanding and patience with this.

Microsoft Teams... I know a few of you have experienced issues with Teams this week and it has been challenging for our teachers too at times. Certain essential safeguarding measures brought in by our Trust's IT support have impacted upon access at times, and Microsoft updates also seem to have disrupted things for some people. Ms Dangerfield has been working with the online teaching team to work around these changes and IT support continue to help with individual issues so we are looking forward to a smoother week next week.

Well-being... These times continue to bring unique challenges, and it is important we continue to each take care of our own physical and mental well-being as well as that of our children. Please remember that we are still very much here for you if you need to talk or are looking for services that might be able to help you or your family.

You can also find information about local mental health services on our website. Our Mental Well-being Services page includes links to organisations, websites and services to support children's mental health, and if you scroll further down there is also a section focused upon adult mental health. [You can access this page here](#) or via the Safeguarding tab on the main menu.

Have a lovely weekend, Andy Bowman

Love

Courage

Creativity

Joy



Climate Corner...

If your children have been inspired by topics like rivers, oceans, plastics or energy this term, they might enjoy digging deeper with some of the fantastic learning resources on the Transform Our World website: <https://www.transform-our-world.org/home>

There are quizzes, activities and some great recorded sessions from the Youth Climate Summit, specially made for primary school kids.



For more climate or sustainability activity ideas (indoor and outdoor), follow FACE (Families Acting on Climate Emergency) @FACEclimate or the Schools Climate Network @SchoolsCN on twitter - two local organisations co-founded by parents from St Stephens.

Diary Dates...

February

12th – End of Term 3
22nd – Term 4 Begins

April

1st – End of Term 4
19th – Term 5 Begins

May

27th – End of Term 5 for pupils
28th – Inset Day

June

7th – Term 6 begins

July

21st – Last day of Term 6