

ST PAUL'S C of E VA PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHIPPERFIELD

Love to Learn; Learn to Love



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Newsletter 19
22nd January 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this newsletter finds you all safe and well. As last week, it has been good to hear from you about what has been going well and what has been more challenging.

Since schools have once again been closed to the majority of pupils, there has been a dramatic increase in families across Dacorum reporting that they are finding this second closure much more difficult. Parents are feeling more tired and pressured with home schooling. With this newsletter I am attaching two other letters sent to us that may be of help. One is from the DSPL team (Delivering Special Provision Locally) with sources of support - some for children with specific special needs and some to support more generally. The other is from Schools Family Support from the Kings Langley Partnership of Schools, with top tips for supporting parents with children's home learning. I know that this is yet more to read, but there are some useful tips and sources of support for families during this lockdown.

What you as parents and carers have been asked to do over the last few weeks is almost impossible - working, parenting and teaching are three different jobs and it is not possible to do all three at the same time! It's not hard because you are doing something wrong, but hard because you are trying to do too much! Engage with what you can, when you can, and don't feel guilty if some things get missed. We are all getting into the rhythm of a new way of working. Also remember that sharing a book, going for a walk, going for a bike ride, completing a puzzle and baking a cake are all great activities for children to be getting involved with too - and great at supporting wellbeing.

Our remote learning has been planned to try and allow some flexibility for you - which is why most activities are pre-recorded or have been sent as a link. We do understand that contact and interaction is important so - as well as the interaction provided by SeeSaw - we hope we can extend this when we are up and running with Microsoft Teams (we're hoping this will be very soon - it has turned out to be a very lengthy and complicated process due to ongoing issues with our provider). Depending on the age and stage of children, we aim to provide more interactive opportunities with activities such as registration, feedback after work, stories and other opportunities for talking. We will let you know when we have further information on this, including agreements on live online etiquette.

Technology: Thank you to Emma Kell and those who have contributed to her birthday fundraiser, which has raised a fantastic £550 to help with devices and technology provision. Some of the donated laptops are missing power cables so we are trying to sort this and will then allocate again.

Apple Juice Fundraiser: This has raised £360. Thanks to Charlotte Dickinson for organising this and also for donating her costs to the proceeds as well. Due to its success, this is something that might be in the pipeline again for another year.

Winter Mini Reading Challenge: A huge well done to Persephone (Y1) who has completed the challenge and sent in her certificate. She has told me that her favourite book was *Clever Polly and the Stupid Wolf* because it's funny. Please let us know if there are any other children who have completed this challenge.

Finally, thank you for your continued support. We have received numerous messages of thanks for the continued hard work of staff with an acknowledgement of the extremely challenging circumstances that we all find ourselves in. Thank you as well to families who have sent in treats for the staffroom - they have been very well received and helped to give staff a great boost this week!

Take care. As always, remember to get in touch if there is anything that we can help with.

Best wishes, stay safe and have a good weekend.

Caroline Moore

Headteacher