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@StStephensPri



Newsletter

15th January 2021

St Stephen's Primary Church School

Happy Friday!

Whether in school or at home, I hope you have had a really good and productive week. For staff and children it has been great to settle into the first full week of the new routine and feel that continued sense of energy and family.

Remote Learning – smoothing the edges!

Here are a few requests to help our online learning to continue to go smoothly:

Flagging up Teams issues... If you have issues related to the use of Teams that are technology rather than teaching and learning related (eg logins, functions not working etc), please could you email the office rather than asking the teacher? This is so that we can more easily log the issues with IT support and keep track of when issues are resolved and also to enable the teachers to focus on the teaching and learning side of things. Some issues are most quickly sorted with a quick google to find a solution so this is always worth a try too.

Please Don't Accept Invites... When your child receives an invitation for a session, they do not need to accept the invitation. Every time an invitation is accepted it sends an automatic email to the teacher, leaving them with potentially hundreds of emails to delete!

Hands Up at Home... On the teacher's screen, it is very difficult to see which children have their hands up, whether using the hand icon or in real life. This is because of the way Teams splits the screen in different modes, particularly with so many children in the meeting at the same time. Please could you explain this to your child so they understand if they aren't chosen? Our teachers will do their best to help everyone feel included and able to contribute, but this is so much harder to achieve online than it is in the classroom.

Deadline for Marking... We are aware that it is not always possible for children to complete and upload assignments on the day they are set but if there is too long a delay, it can be difficult for the teacher to keep track of unmarked assignments. So we are setting a cut-off of 3pm on Friday for Monday to Thursday's assignments, and 3pm on Monday for Friday's assignments. After this cut-off, although assignments could still be submitted they may not be marked as the teacher will be prioritising the newer assignments to keep the feedback as current as possible.

Home Learning Page... As tradition dictates, a new term means a new Covid-related page on the website!

This term's is imaginatively called 'Spring 2021 Blended Learning' and it can be found [here](#). It provides an overview of our approach to in-school and remote learning and all of the information that has previously been sent to you related to this can be downloaded here, including the parent and children guides and also the timetables for online activity. We will continue to use this as a place to collate useful documents and information, but we will also email you with any changes or updates as they occur.

Have a lovely weekend, Andy Bowman

Love

Courage

Creativity

Joy



St Stephen's Primary Church School

Climate Corner... How about signing up for the '1000 hours outside' challenge as a family this year?

Lockdown means many of our kids are having to spend more time indoors than normal. But research shows the overwhelming health, social and developmental benefits that come from time in nature. On average, children spend more than 3 hours a day on screens, probably even more at the moment. This adds up to 1000 hours in a year! So to tip the balance back in favour of time outdoors, why not sign up for the '1000 hours outside challenge'. Find more info at

<https://www.1000hoursoutside.com/blog/why-1000-hours>

Or on Instagram @1000hoursoutdoors.

A great book on the health benefits of time in nature is *Losing Eden* by Lucy Jones. Follow @FACEclimate and @SchoolsCN on Twitter (organisations co-founded by parents from St Stephens) for ideas on outdoor learning activities.

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

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