



January NEWSLETTER

St Giles Junior School

St Giles Junior School
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I want to begin our newsletter this month with a heart felt thank you to everyone at home who is taking part in or supporting home learning in some way. We know that it hasn't been easy for anyone but we are so proud of how hard your children are working and so thankful to you for the support they are getting at home.

January is typically a month of resolutions and our New Year's resolution is to keep students as motivated, happy and engaged as we possibly can, there's more about this later on in the newsletter, with a few suggestions that you might want to talk through with your child.

From the last lockdown, and our recent parent surveys, we have learned a great deal. We know that what your children missed most was the interactivity with their friends and teachers each day. From your responses, our switch to daily live sessions goes some way to enable your children to share their learning, their work and hopefully their laughter and friendship.

There is a special thank you video message from me on the link below, which is for all of our carers/parents, who are doing an amazing job with the remote learning.
<https://www.loom.com/share/2efc1a6355604ac1b57f7bb92e52fd3c>

And for all those carers/parents who need to send their children into school because you are a critical worker, thank you also. You are doing a remarkable job out there supporting the national and local community. All your roles are vital to keep services open and are, in some cases, dealing with Covid on the frontline. You're doing an amazing job, all our best wishes go out to you.

Take care everyone, the hope is that we will have more news about the how and when we can get back to some normality in school soon.

Mr Mann

When emotions explode

Last year and the start of 2021 has been extra stressful and, understandably emotions may be heightened at home. It's normal to feel frustrated, worried or angry about the situation, but it can be hard to know how to communicate in these very emotional or angry moments.

This poster aims to support parents when their child has angry feelings or outbursts and may help families start a conversation and talk about each other's feelings.

Very Angry

Stay calm.
Stay safe. walk
away if possible and
make sure you don't
engage with your
child until you are
both calm.

Frustrated

Reflect what you can see in your child. 'I can see that you're angry/upset' 'I understand that this might be difficult for you.' 'I understand when you did x this made you feel..'

Calm

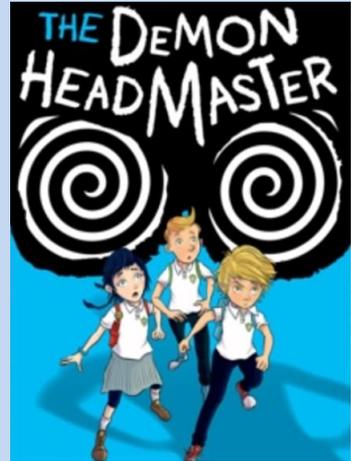
Use this time to explore your concerns and ask questions like 'what happened there? How did you feel?' If there has been lots of conflict reassure them and remind them you still love and care about them.

Home Learning Competition

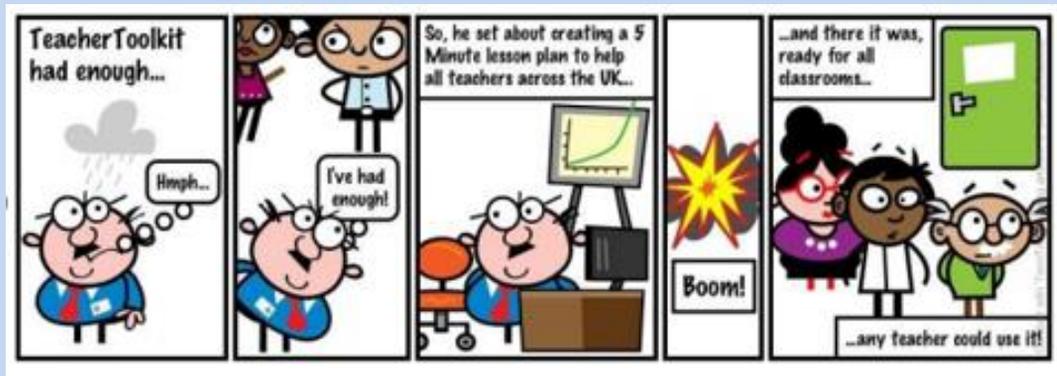
Tell us in the most thoughtful and creative way how the adults in your home are doing as your teachers?

Do you have The Demon Headmaster in your kitchen or Miss Honey in your sitting room?

You can make it true or fictional (made up), funny or serious, long or short.



There will be prizes and rewards for great entries and we will announce the winners in the next newsletter! There will also be a prize for the class which submits the most entries. You can enter your writing in any way you like – perhaps as a picture with writing around or underneath, a model, a short video, artwork, stop-animation or a cartoon!



**This completion is open to all students,
it just needs to be uploaded onto
Seesaw.**

Please send entries to your class teacher via Seesaw. The closing date is Tuesday 23 February, so you have plenty of time. Thank you.





‘Take 5’ to look after your mental health and wellbeing

January presents challenges for many of us with the dark, winter weather, and coupled with a national lockdown, we want to remind our residents to Take 5 with advice and tips to help stay mentally and physically well.

Our Take 5 campaign highlights the importance of taking some time for yourself each day. Many of us are under increasing pressure, and taking a moment each day for yourself will help to clear your head, help you refocus and also give you some time to ‘switch off’.

Based on the 5 ways to wellbeing, each week we will be sharing five different ways you can work on your health and wellbeing.



It's Children's Mental Health Week next week!

The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is **Express Yourself**.



Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself.

As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health. Check out free resources, link below.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

Office News

As we are asking all carers/parents to limit when they come into school, please make use of the other ways available to access support/advice/information:

email - admin2571@welearn365.com

Tel: - 02476 313375

School Website/School App (Schudio)

You can message class teachers through Seesaw

Support

Warwickshire has a useful support service called the Family Information Service, as well. They are working hard to support you throughout lockdown and beyond on a range of issues. You can get in touch with them by emailing

fis@warwickshire.gov.uk or calling tel: 01926 742274 or via their website

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families>

Free School Meal Support

For those eligible for Free School Meal Support the government are currently supplying vouchers though Edenred, or if your child has an approved place in school they can have meals in school. It is not possible to have mixture of vouchers and meals. Warwickshire County Council are also providing vouchers for February half term week, in the same way they did over the Christmas holidays

School Places Offered During Lockdown

There has been a significant increase in demand for places in school this lockdown. Over 70% more children are in school now than at the start of the lockdown in March last year. We understand that it can sometimes be challenging keeping your child at home, but places are offered using the DfE guidelines.

It has been indicated by the Government that schools will not be returning straight after half term, but to be clear, **they have not said that schools will be re-opening on 8th March**. We will be reviewing our offer made to carers and parents who have accessed a place so far as the school may soon be over half full, and this was not the intention of closing schools in the first place. We hope that you understand why we need to carry out this review. More information will follow.

Some Good News

It is so nice to report that we have two members of staff who are expecting a baby in the summer! Congratulations to Mrs Loonam and Mrs So.

With this in mind, if your child is in school could you please have a talk with them to remind them of the importance of social distancing and keeping to a minimum of 2 ms away from staff, as keeping everyone safe in school is always our priority.

Coronavirus:

New guidance for online learning:

The guidance for the latest national lockdown sets out the following expectations for remote learning.

Schools and teachers are expected to follow these expectations and to ensure that all children engage and upload work daily.



- Set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects.
- Primary schools should ensure pupils have three hours' work a day, on average, across the cohort.
- Provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos.
- Have systems for checking whether pupils are engaging with their work, and inform parents immediately where engagement is a concern.
- Gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum using questions and other suitable tasks.
- Provide feedback using “digitally facilitated or whole class feedback where appropriate”.
- Enable teachers to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils’ understanding.

We are constantly reviewing the remote learning we offer. As you can see, there is a lot expected of the staff and they are trying to accommodate all students, using a variety of home IT equipment. Please contact us if you are experiencing issues with home learning, if you have any suggestions of how it can be improved and also letting us know what is going well. By working together we can achieve the most successes with home learning.

Warwick University - Online education resources for school children

As part of their Community Engagement work, Warwick University has pulled together some resources for those who are home schooling their children.

There is a range of resources for different ages and it has been created to support parents, children and teachers during lockdown.

All resources can be accessed [here](#).

February Half Term Lockdown Ideas

Fun things to do & ideas for different activities this Half Term in Lockdown

With the prospect of being stuck at home again this Half Term, here are some ideas so that you can still have fun during lockdown and to try and make the days feel different.

Create your own Olympics! Pick a country to represent, dress up in their colours, create your own competition numbers and start your competition!

You could try one of the below events

Garden Sprint Garden distance run Sack race Triple Jump
Long Jump Discus – try using a frisbee!

Themed Day

The key ingredients of a Themed Day are fancy dress, a themed lunch and some fun activities. Also try to throw in a relevant movie for 90 minutes of down time. Pinterest is your friend here. Some nice ideas for themed days are;

Pirate Day Fairy Day Frozen Day Dinosaur Day A Day at the Beach
Mexican Day Fairytale Day Under the Sea

Hold a Talent Show

Get the children to design a stage and prepare their best talents for an evening production (I'm sure LOTS of private rehearsal will be needed!)

Have a Garden Adventure

Have a whole day enjoying garden activities! You don't need warm weather for this (just make sure that it stays dry). Create an obstacle course- lava is the floor! Create a challenge for your children to complete to get around the garden without touching the floor. Have a garden-cook out - this could be a BBQ, Pizza Oven, or if you have a camping stove to make a full meal outdoors

Plan a Scavenger Hunt

For little ones this could be finding items of different colours or textures, or hiding various objects around the garden that they have to find. For older ones you could create clues.

Virtual Cookalong

The idea with the virtual cookalong is you all make the same recipes linked via zoom, then you zoom again (or stay on) for the kids to eat together. A great way for the children to see friends! You could also create a theme for the cookalong and dress up if you fancy!

A reminder of our New Year Assembly about things to Resolve to do ... how are you getting on?

"Our minds and bodies are completely inseparable"

Exercise triggers the release of endorphins into the bloodstream, relieving pain and producing a feeling of well-being.

Even short periods of exercise - just 10 minutes - can help.

"You can think of it as a kind of brain fertiliser - it helps parts of your brain regenerate."

Get moving



Stop over-thinking



If you've been worrying about a problem for 10 minutes or more without coming up with a plan of action, or you've been going over questions with no answers, it's time to stop.

It's perfectly normal to worry, but many of our worries never materialise. Only around one in 10 worries ever turn out to be real problems.

That could be a big project like learning a language or something as small as trying out a new recipe.

The point is that if it's outside your comfort zone, it gives you a focus and a sense of control.

Learning to do new things is frequently how we achieve self-worth.

Set a new target



Talk it over



We're not really designed to be on our own, we feel better with social contact.

Going over problems again and again, just rehearsing how terrible you feel, may not help at all.

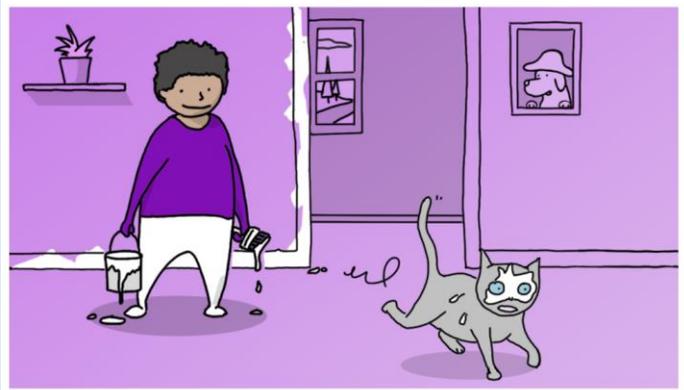
Talk things through with someone who can help you reframe your problems

Don't wait to do things perfectly at the right time on the right day.

Do things and accept that they might be done badly at first.

When you do that the results are actually not that bad - and they're almost always better than doing **nothing**.

Do it badly



Pride Assemblies

Well done to all of the pupils who were given a Head Teacher Certificate for their learning either in school or their home learning. The assemblies were recorded last week, and links sent to parents and carers. Again, if a carer/ parent would like to nominate their child for achievement, academic or otherwise, just email the school with details and we will try to include this in our weekly assemblies.

Some Examples of Recent Work

Year 4/5 have really enjoyed learning about Macbeth, and who wouldn't, as it's a terrific story that is well told by one of our own local lads – Shakespeare!

I like the way Hermione has built up her sentences, she's shown mature writing skills through her word choice, but her last sentence also shows how she's understood the story, and the frailty of Macbeth – well done

He Hermione

Description of Macbeth - reworked

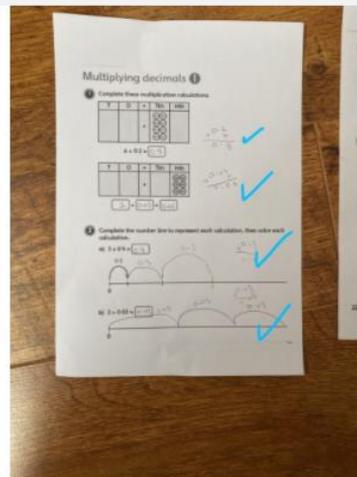
1. Macbeth, who has short, straight, ginger hair, sits alone thinking about being king.
2. Macbeth, who desires to be king, sat in bed with his cunning wife, who was fast asleep dreaming of him as king.
3. Macbeth, who is afraid of his wife, walks over the bridge of his castle, to escape Lady Macbeth.
4. Macbeth, who doesn't want to commit treason, sits in his soft bed thinking about it all night.
5. Macbeth; a giant, who is as tall as a tree looked over the side of his bed and saw a flashing light, which reminded him of king Duncan.
6. Macbeth sat alone in a dark corner, twiddling his long bushy beard, thinking about his evil plan, in how he would kill king Duncan.
7. Macbeth was deep in planning the killing of king Duncan, looked brave on the outside, but inside he was thinking about how he would cope without him and the upset to his family.

In Year 6, Penelope has been working on multiplying decimal fractions – not an easy task!

What I like about this is that Penelope's mentions that she's struggling a little – but she is doing really well, with lots right.

With a little help from Mr Lee, she's soon back on track.

Penelope's learnt that it's OK to say you find things difficult – if we don't know, we can't help.



[View Original](#)

Mr Lee

Mr Lee

0:09 / 0:09

Penelope Mr Lee im struggling a bit on the challenge do i only did 5 off them



Aimee-Leigh

Aimee-Leigh's been busy in the kitchen – and those cakes look delicious.

Just think about the learning you did there, Aimee-Leigh – maths, DT and how to show of your creativity. Bake Off next?



And finally, back to Macbeth, and Janusha's work. I agree with Mr Burch, **what a great effort** with this piece of work.

Macbeth, who fought with his sword ,saved many people's life.On his face ,he had huge scars and blood on his hands.He wore tattered trousers,metal armour and Big black boots that are like the midnight sky.On his back,he wore a dark black cloak and a midnight black coat.Macbeth has a long bushy beard and ginger hair.He also has glistening eyes like beetles.

Macbeth, who is scared to kill ,is also scared of his own wife.He's scared because Lady Macbeth wants him to kill the king.He has a fear which is his darkest desires.He doesn't kill because he knew that he will be targeted.Macbeth is scared to commit murder because he is scared to go to prison.

The bravest warrior Macbeth hopes that 1 day he will be king of Scotland and Thane of Cawdor.He always wanted to be loyal because he knows when he is loyal people will be loyal back.He really want to kill king Duncan.He wants to be and doesn't want Malcon to be king.He also want super powers.

He is one strong and fierce man.He is so brave like a lion.A little caring because he wants to kill the king and king because he still cares about people.He tough on the outside but respectful in the inside.Because he is a soldier he fought for hours and hours so he is blood -thirty.Wife sees him as a weak man but actually he is tough.

Mr Burch Some excellent uses of descriptive vocabulary in here Janusha, just be mindful not to use the same sentence type too many times. But this is a really good effort.

Janusha Thank you.

January 27, 2021, 10:40 AM

We have now thousands pieces of work uploaded and marked. I think everyone involved - the teachers setting and marking the work, the TA's supporting this, the children submitting and the carers/parents supporting their children, should all be very proud of this. Well done!