

S^t JOSEPH'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

29th Jan 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you to all children and parents for engaging in home school learning. You are doing a great job. Please try to post your work back to your class teacher through video or photograph, so we can see what you are up to and post positive responses back.

If you are not sure how to do this, follow the links on last week's newsletter or send a message to your class teacher.

Some good news this week, a possible return to school on the 8th March, let's hope that this becomes a reality, as this will mean that cases and deaths will have fallen and children can return to school, which is where they need to be.

Lateral flow tests have now been made available for staff to regularly test, we will be doing these twice weekly, on Sunday and Wednesday evening. We warmly welcome the introduction of these tests for staff as we strive to make our school as safe as possible. If a staff member tests positive, we would temporarily close your child's bubble, if this is then confirmed by a PCR test the bubble would continue to be closed for 10 days. If the PCR tests came back negative then school would re-open your child's bubble. This is good news for our school and offers another layer of protection.

Best wishes,

Mrs Briggs



This week's newsletter includes:

- Free School Meal Vouchers
- Free School Meals during Half Term Holiday
- Remote Learning
- Class Zoom Assemblies
- Support for Parents
- Reading for Pleasure

**Inset Day – Friday 12th
February**

**School will be closed on
Friday 12th for staff first aid
training.**



Free School Meal Vouchers

Free school meal vouchers will be issued as from next week, this is not universal free school meals, which all children in FS2 Year 1 and Year 2 receive. But for parents who have requested support through the local authority. If you feel you are entitled to free school meals, please request a form from the office or go to the council website.

If you are entitled to free school meals but your child/children are attending school, you are not entitled to receive them, as a free school meal is being offered on site.

The vouchers will be through Edenred the same company used in the last lockdown. Instructions have been given to you via a link on your individual Class Dojo account. Your email will arrive on 2nd February – please check your spam.

Free School Meals during Half Term Holiday

The local authority will provide free school meal vouchers during the February Half Term holiday, this will be through Wonde, which was used during the Christmas holidays. These will be delivered on Monday 15th February.

Remote Learning

We are making phone calls to parents if your child has not attended their class Zoom assembly or there has been no work posted on Class Dojo. This is not checking up to see if they are doing the work, but a health call. We are tasked by the DFE and Ofsted to ensure all children are participating in home learning, and also forms part of our safeguarding checks. If we can see the children on zoom and see some work, we will not need to ring you.

Where we have not be able to contact you or you are not returning messages or calls, we will be conducting home visits.

If you need a lap-top to support home-school learning school have a number of devices which we can offer on loan, please dojo Mrs Briggs or Mrs Glossop.

Class zoom - Assembly Sessions

FS2 – Tuesday afternoon – see the daily message for the time

Year 1 and Year 2 – 10:00 am Friday

Year 3 – 1pm Wednesday

Year 4 – 1:30 pm Wednesday

Year 5 and Year 6 – 10:00 am Friday

For links into the meeting see the daily Class Dojo messages.



Support for Parents

On-line, interactive Family Workshops. Topics include: Encouraging Positive Behaviour, Wellbeing for Parent Carers, Sleep, Money Matters and many more.

<https://www.contact.org.uk/about-us/family-workshops/>

These topics are also available for parent carer forums, support groups and practitioners to commission from us to support the families they work with.

Our 1:1 listening ear service might help parents struggling emotionally and looking for strategies to help them cope.

These are telephone appointments with our family support advisors for parents, offering reassurance, practical and emotional support and can be booked via Eventbrite.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/contact-for-families-with-disabled-children-30452924652>



Reading at Home

Reading is a huge part of a child's education but during lockdown it's not always easy to get hold of new books for children to read. Fortunately, there are loads of free resources online to help support reading. Here are some web links to help you access free digital books online.

Read Write Inc and Developing Fluency



KS1 - This link will take you to the Oxford Owl eBook library where you will find Read Write Inc books at the appropriate level for your child – KS1 children have been provided with log in details.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

Reading for Pleasure



This link will take you to a collection of texts developed by the Open University Reading for Pleasure Project including comics, magazines, stories and information books.

https://researchrichpedagogies.org/downloads/Top_Ten_Digital_Books.pdf



<https://www.funbrain.com/books>

This website offers lots of great books and the quality is good. You can browse the selection or look at the recommended reads by year group – the year groups are American but as a guide UK Year 6 is 5th grade in the USA.



https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/?gclid=CjwKCAjw-YT1BRAFEiwAd2WRtjH819L_2HoJn780Dz5HXz4WvuSjpR6aiNA4k-hsZpGyC9DpK8KPvxOCawoQAvD_BwE

The BookTrust are offering a selection of really good quality read along books for younger readers.





A great selection of full books for KS1 and extracts of books for KS2 read by well-known authors. The books are arranged by age range and QR codes and links in the document lead to story readings on Youtube.

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/storytime-online>

Library Services

Rawmarsh library is offering an order and collect service. For more details visit the Rotherham Libraries website <https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/libraries/libraries-order-collect-service/1>

Families can also join the library and have access to free e-books for the children.

E-books are a great, safe way to access lots of different books and you can read your eBooks on a wide range of devices such as:

- Kobo
- Sony eReaders
- Nook eReaders
- iPhones
- iPads
- Android devices
- Kindle Fire devices (not standard Kindle eReaders)

The British Library:

This link will take you to a range of activities from the British Library based on children's books.

The British Library activities for children
https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/themes/all-activities?fbclid=IwAR3D4S_sDox3JRv_g8RiKbVsvQZrxtnJt2P-eGxX-1aRFYdeTEjKCgCyUBU%2Baem_AQ2oliCoBNn95J59S26i9sG3nrgAf-J12sgI9tIhoFutpSI_uR9SYDMAHpF6pfMh-Q2Jbz56ITQ3r_5-Hs_9x6Smi23UILuRxWco6EB2aCC_w

