



# The Crossways Schools Newsletter 5 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021



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Dear Families,

I do hope that you and your families are safe and well and wish everyone all the best for 2021.

As you will know, we have entered another lockdown and the schools now remain closed to all pupils apart from those whose parents are key workers and vulnerable pupils. I am sure we all respect and understand the reasons for the immediate action in closing schools and recognise that this will support with reducing contacts and transmission. It has meant that we have needed to act very quickly to move from in-school provision to remote learning and I would like to thank staff for all their hard work with this, and thank parents for your patience and understanding as we got everything in place.

The school was partially opened from Wednesday for those eligible children, and we were delighted to be able to provide remote learning on Tuesday on the first day of school closures.

### Remote learning:

As mentioned in my previous letter regarding remote Learning, we have a really thorough system in place to support with this and are now using new systems (Google Classroom/Evidence Me) as part of our remote learning offer to families. The remote learning planned will provide similar learning activities for those children working at home to those that the children who are in school. Teachers are carefully choosing videos and other resources to support with providing teacher input to the children working at home. This is likely to be the same topic / content that is being covered in class.

In December, we carried out a survey for parents on our remote learning offer. Thank you for the fantastic response to this, we really appreciate so many of you taking the time to get back to us. The response from parents was overwhelmingly positive, with a few areas that we will be developing as we enter another period of remote learning where the majority of children are home learning. We continue to strive to ensure that we provide a mixture of learning opportunities for children and that they do not always involve the need for an electronic device. We do also try to limit the amount of work that may require printing. We know how fantastic you have found Google Classroom and that it has been a positive step to support with submitting work and getting regular feedback. This is important for school staff too and we are keen to have this regular contact.

As you will appreciate, unlike during the period in November when many classes were asked to self-isolate, we do have some children in school, and therefore we have staff in school too. Our teachers are therefore working with children in school as well as planning and responding to the remote learning, and consequently have reduced time available. With this in mind, and to help families with supporting children who are completing school work at home, teachers will include information on Google Classroom so that you know what work they would like to be submitted and which work they will be providing feedback on. Sometimes, feedback may be individual. Other times, the feedback may be more of a general nature (whole-class feedback), linking to the next day's learning - as it might be in class.

We ask that any work that is being submitted is done so between 9.00 – 3.30pm. After this time, it may not be possible to provide feedback. This is the same for emails – if you choose to send an email to your child's teacher out of school hours, please do remember that they will respond during the school day.

I have had a request from teachers to ask that families do not send in one-line emails/comments on Google Classroom – such as 'thanks' or 'great'. Whilst these are appreciated, as you can imagine they can quickly mount up and teachers are finding that they are managing a significant number of emails throughout the day and want to be able to respond in a timely manner. Thank you for your help with this.

Each year group will have provided a daily timetable for the children and you will probably find it useful to try to stick to these times as much as possible to support with keeping a routine in place for children's learning. We do understand that this is not always possible and that you will work out what is most effective for your family. In primary schools, the DFE ask that we set an average of about 3 hours learning a day. This is across the school cohort, so may be slightly more for older pupils and less for younger ones. Remote learning will also provide the opportunity for children to receive frequent, clear expectations of new content, which may either be delivered via video such as the Oak Academy

resources, or may be a recorded video from the teacher. We will not be providing live lessons. It is also important that we have systems in place for checking that children are engaging with the work and also how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum. This might take a variety of forms and may include teachers asking for work to be submitted which they may then feedback on individually or a whole-class basis. It might also be through the use of quizzes.

You can expect that you will have at least weekly contact with a member of staff, which may include contact through Google Classroom, email, phone calls. We do also encourage parents to continue to use the year group email account if you have particular questions or queries about the home learning that you would support with. Teachers do endeavour to ensure that activities meet the needs of all children – do please contact your child’s class teacher if you have any questions about this and they will be happy to support with providing additional resources to support as appropriate.

Covid-19 reporting

Please do continue to let us know if your child has symptoms of Covid-19 and any test results.

School Lunches

We have been working closely with the kitchen staff regarding provision for children who are eligible for Free School meals. All families have been/will be contacted by the school office to discuss this with parents. If you would like to apply for Free School meals please visit:

<https://find-information-for-adults-children-families.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page?id=96T2gCAk10A>

Financial Assistance:

The £500 support scheme has been set up to support those who have been asked to self-isolate and may be affected financially because of this. There is certain criteria that will need to be met, details can be found by following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support>

If the criteria is not met there is also other support available that you may be eligible for. For more information is available on the Citizen’s Advice Bureau and South Gloucestershire websites:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/financial-support-for-residents/>

Staffing Update

We had some exciting news on Christmas Eve. Mrs Chivers had her baby – a baby girl called Penny. I am sure you will want to join me in sending our congratulations.

Miss Anstey was successfully appointed at the end of last term to continue teaching Beech Class during Mrs Chivers’ maternity leave. We are delighted that she is able to continue working with us and the children in Beech class.

Unfortunately, Miss Murphy is still unwell. Mr Relton continues to work with the Year Six children and we are delighted that he is continuing to work with us.

In other news, I would also like to congratulate Kathryn Hannan who has been successfully appointed as our new EYFS apprentice and is working alongside Miss Frontzack and Mrs Stockton.

Certificates

Children who received certificates in the last two weeks of T2 were as follows:

<b>STAR OF THE WEEK AWARD</b>	<b>WEEK FIVE</b>	<b>WEEK SIX</b>
Willow Class	Imogen	Matthew
Oak Class	Freddie	Max
Juniper Class	Lily-Rose	Fiona
Maple Class	Savannah	Ethan
Hawthorn Class	Molly	Mazie
Chestnut Class	Issy	Melanie
Ash Class	Charlie	Joel
Beech Class	Jake	Nevaeh
<b>SOARING TO SUCCESS AWARD</b>	<b>WEEK FIVE</b>	<b>WEEK SIX</b>
Oak class	Louis	
Juniper class		Elsbeth

<b>SUPERSTAR AWARD</b>	<b>WEEK FIVE</b>	<b>WEEK SIX</b>
Squirrels class	Callum	Mia
Foxes Class	Seb	Violet
Hedgehogs Class	Arthur	Harry W
Moles Class	Jenson	Rosannah
Badgers Class	Alicia	Charlie B
Rabbits Class	Claire	Harry

<b>STANDING ON TIPTOES AWARD</b>	<b>WEEK FIVE</b>	<b>WEEK SIX</b>
Rabbits Class	Charles	
Badgers Class		Ava

**Upcoming Dates:**

Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET Day 3 – there will be no remote learning on this day as it is an in-service training day.
	End of term 3
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Start of term 4
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> April	End of term 4
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of term 5
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> May	End of term 5
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Start of term 6
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Jun	INSET Day 4
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> July	End of term 6
Weds 21 <sup>st</sup> July	INSET Day 5 – this is a disaggregated INSET day and staff training has taken place in twilight training sessions throughout the year.