

The Crossways Schools Newsletter 6 9 February 2021



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Dear Families,

I do hope that you are well. What strange times we are in again, with most children continuing with their learning at home whilst schools are closed during lockdown. We do miss having all the children in school, although we all understand the reasons why this is not possible at this time.

I would like to start the newsletter by saying a massive thank to you all for everything you are doing. We appreciate just how much hard work goes in to remote learning, and we want to thank you for the fantastic job you are doing. The teachers are regularly reviewing children's engagement in the home learning and we are delighted at how well this is going.

I would also like to thank all of the staff. Each and every one of the Crossways' staff team have gone above and beyond this term to do their very best in these challenging times. We have received numerous emails from parents to say thank you and I know that parents also appreciate their hard work.

We very much look forward to when it is safe for us all to be back in school together again.

Remote Learning:

We have worked very hard to develop our remote learning offer even further this term. We are really pleased to be able to offer regular live feedback sessions with teachers, which also provide an invaluable opportunity for children to interact with their peers too. We understand how important this is and know that parents will also be looking for safe ways for children to remotely keep in touch with their friends during this time, when we are unable to meet up face to face. We know that providing opportunities for children to maintain some level of contact with both their teachers and other peers is really important and helpful during this period of lockdown.

This week we will be carrying out another parent survey about remote learning. The last one that we carried out in December was really useful to support us with developing and enhancing our practice. We appreciate parents taking the time to engage in the survey and letting us know what is working well and what further support you might benefit from. Thank you in advance for your support with the next one!

One question that we have been asked by some parents is whether we will be introducing live teaching. We do understand that some families would be really keen on this, but similarly, recognise that for some families this would be more of a challenge, particularly where there is more than one child in a household who might therefore all need to use a device at the same time. We are keen to support families and know that it can be tricky for families to access live sessions whilst juggling other priorities and activities at home, especially when there are multiple siblings in a household. Due to the age of the children, it would require a parent to be available to be in the room with the child during the session, which we recognise is not possible for all families, as parents have other commitments, other children at home or are working from home themselves.

Every school is in a different situation in terms of the challenges we face in order to create a sustainable approach to remote learning. We take into account the number of children we have on-site, the number of children we have learning from home, as well as our staff availability. At Crossways, we have about a third of our pupils in school every day. This means that we need a significant number of staff in school each day to ensure that the groups are small, as we strive to do our best to keep everyone safe and maintain distancing where possible. Every school is different with regards to the staffing levels they have available at present. All of our staff are working to the best of their ability to provide quality remote learning for children who are home learning and also working in school to support children of key workers and vulnerable children who are accessing the in-school provision.

This is why we have asked staff to use a range of resources for teaching new input including the Oak Academy videos and some videos that they have pre-recorded themselves so that they can be accessed at a convenient time by children/parents. The approach we have taken in providing online videos from a range of sources, tries to balance this as best we can and is also designed using best practice advice within educational research.

We continually monitor and review our remote learning offer and will continue to do so.

Our teachers are regularly checking in with families to support those working at home with accessing the learning. Do please let us know if you need any further support. We are also able to support with access to both devices and the internet and have been delighted to be able to help some of our families with this. If you do require help with this, please do get in touch with your child's class teacher or the school office.

Covid-19 reporting over half term

Schools play an important part in contact tracing for pupils and staff who continue to attend school.

Please see attached instructions for what to do if your child tests positive in the February half term, is currently attending school and the next steps you need to take.

INSET – Friday 12 February

Just a reminder that this Friday is an INSET day and the school will be closed to **all** pupils. There will not be any remote learning provided on this day or teacher feedback, as teachers will be involved in staff training.

Reminder about the current arrangements for the start and end of the school day

Just a reminder that we have changed the arrangements for the start of the school day whilst we have smaller numbers of children attending the setting. Children do not need to line up at the start of the day. They will be welcomed at the gate by a member of staff and then asked to go straight round to their classrooms. Parents do not need to come onto the playground.

At the end of the school day, in the junior school, children will continue to wait in their lines and parents are asked to come on to the playground to collect their child. We hope this will support with parents being able to maintain a social distance outside of school when collecting children. In the infant school, parents continue to collect their child from the gate and walk round past pre-school to exit the premises.

Children's mental health week 1st – 7th February – A message from Mrs Ayotte and Miss Toms

Children's mental health charity Place2Be has set up Children's Mental Health Week 2021. Its aim is to highlight the importance of mental health within children and young people.

The theme of Children's Mental Health Week this year was 'Express Yourself'. The aim is to encourage children to express themselves in a variety of ways. For example, expressing yourself can be about sharing your feelings, thoughts and ideas through creativity. Even though it is no longer Mental Health Week, children can still express how they feel through a piece of artwork or writing, or they could express it through a performance such as dance or drama.

An important part of this theme is that expressing yourself doesn't mean that you're the best at something. It's all about finding a way to show other people who you are and how you feel. It's about showing how you see the world and finding a way to 'express yourself' which feels good to you. Expressing yourself in a way that's unique to you is a great way to improve mental wellbeing.

Last week, the children received a range of activities, including some off screen ideas to support positive mental health and well-being. We also have a range of activities available on our school website.

Mrs Ayotte and Miss Toms

Well-Being Wednesday

For the next three Wednesday afternoons (this week and the first two after half term), we will be continuing to focus on Mental Health and Well-Being. Teachers will be setting a range of activities for a Wednesday afternoon, that are non-screen based, pastoral activities, designed to support children's mental health and well-being. We hope that children will enjoy these activities and that it will provide time for them to be reflective or creative.

Upcoming Dates:

Fri 12 th 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 nd February	Start of term 4

Thurs 1 st April	End of term 4
Mon 19 th April	Start of term 5
Fri 28 th May	End of term 5
Mon 7 th June	Start of term 6
Fri 18 th Jun	INSET Day 4
Tues 20 th July	End of term 6
Weds 21 st July	INSET Day 5 – this is a disaggregated INSET day and staff training has taken place in twilight training sessions throughout the year.

DISCLAIMER: We have been sent these adverts into school which may be of interest to you but please be aware we are not endorsing any of these advertisements.

THORNBURY WAVE OF LOVE

SHOW LOVE FOR OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY THIS LOCKDOWN

Many of us are feeling the strain of months of lockdown, missing friends, family, colleagues or even just friendly contact. Some may go through a day without speaking to another person. It is easy to feel isolated.

In the lead up to Valentine's Day we want to release a wave of love and kindness into our community. As well as daily ideas on our Facebook page, there are three main ways to take part:



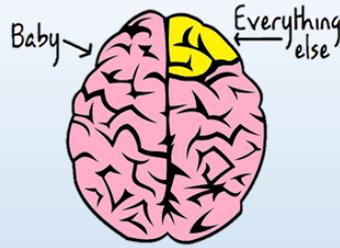
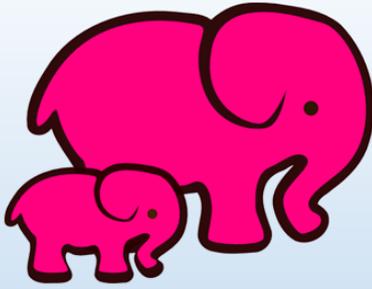
PUT A HEART (OR PORN) IN YOUR WINDOW OR CAR. YOU COULD WRITE A MESSAGE OF HOPE OR ENCOURAGEMENT ON IT!



PLEASE SUBMIT VIDEOS BY FEBRUARY 8th TO hev@thornburybaptistchurch.org.uk
07880835148

  THORNBURY WAVE OF LOVE

JOIN IN OUR THORNBURY WAVE OF LOVE AND SEND A MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY THAT WE CARE, AND THAT WE CAN STAND TOGETHER DURING THIS LOCKDOWN.

**Contact:**

SleepStudy@York.ac.uk;
07548359133

Website:

<https://sites.google.com/york.ac.uk/the-omg-sleep-study/home>

Social Media:

<https://twitter.com/OmgSleep>;
<https://www.facebook.com/sleep.study.334/>



UNIVERSITY
of York

Are you a parent with a child under 6?

Research needs you!

We're carrying out research into memory and sleep in parents.

You would be required to complete a memory game on your phone and answer some questions about your daily activities.

You would be entered into 3 prize draws if you complete the study.

**FUTURE
BRIGHT** ■ Support
■ Advice
■ Skills

Welcome to Future Bright, a new free service for people in paid work, that offers flexible options to boost your job prospects and skills.

What will I get?

- **Support:** A dedicated Career Coach
- **Advice:** Practical help to take control of your work and pay
- **Skills:** Training and development designed around you

Is this for me?

Future Bright works with residents in Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Bath and North East Somerset, who are aged 19 or over and are in paid work and receiving benefits to top up their income*.

How do I sign up?

- 📍 **Visit**
www.futurebright.org.uk
- ☎ **Call**
01454 866 008
- ✉ **Email**
future.bright@southglos.gov.uk

The service is managed by the West of England Combined Authority and delivered by Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire Councils.

*To be eligible you must be receiving one or more of the following in-work benefits: JSA, ESA, Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Housing Benefit, Income Support or Council Tax Reduction.

**WEST OF
ENGLAND**
Combined Authority

Department
for Work &
Pensions



Bath & North East
Somerset Council

South Gloucestershire
Council

South Gloucestershire Community Learning and Skills Service



Online Courses

Starting Jan/Feb 2021

Sewing for Wellbeing	Wed, 1-3pm
Smartphone Photography	Fri, 10-12am
Cooking on a Budget	Thurs, 10am-12pm
Supporting Your Family's Wellbeing	Mon, 10-12am
ESOL -Brush up your Pronunciation	Tues, 7-9pm
Introduction to Working with Animals	Tues, 9.30-11.30am
Gardening for Families	Tues, 10-12

For more information contact: Anneliese Goodare

Email: anneliese.goodare@southglos.gov.uk

Telephone: 07979 701860 / 01454 864613

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sgloslearning/