



## Weekly Newsletter: So much change! 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Well, we find ourselves back in lockdown again. This is indeed a very frightening time for everyone.

It is important that I start by thanking each and everyone one of you. You have absolutely understood the guidance from the government and are keeping your children at home where possible. Like many of the staff, this means you are juggling working and home learning. This is not easy but by keeping schools open with only vulnerable children and children who have parents whose role is critical to the coronavirus, it means we can significantly reduce the number of social contacts in our community.



I know lots of you are finding the situation hard but it is important that we bear in mind the first and most important outcome of this situation is that we all survive (physically and mentally) this pandemic. Most of the children caught up most of their missed learning last term – so we can catch up again.

It is important that you know it is okay to strike a balance between child development and academic development. The Home Learning is there to support you and your children at home whilst we get this virus under control. So please make the planned activities and timings work for you.

Please find below some other key pieces of information:

### SATs

It has officially been announced that SATs (statutory tests) will not take place this year for Year 2 and Year 6 children. This is a positive step from the government as they now realise that this is a pressure that does not need to be placed on children at this time. Teacher assessments will take place.

### Food bags

Those of you who are entitled to a Free School Meal for your child will know that there has been a food bag available for you to collect. You will also be aware that the standard of these is not yet acceptable. At the moment, vouchers are not available from the Government as they want school catering companies to provide a good quality of food for families and fulfil the contracts they have with schools. I am in daily contact with Dolce who provide our food to try to improve this rapidly. I will keep you informed.

Thank you again – we will all be stronger because of this. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards  
*E. Harding*  
Mrs Harding  
Acting Headteacher

### **Head's weekly awards**

What I'm about to share wasn't written by me but I believe it whole heartedly. Therefore, the Head's award goes to **ALL** our amazing children this week.



*Everyone is applauding everyone but our children. These little heroes have stayed indoors more than they've ever known in their entire lives. Their whole lives have literally been turned upside down. All these rules they've never known. A life they couldn't have imaged. All the things they love like sports, being with friends, going to school, or just being kids have all been taken away from them. Adults talking about others becoming unwell, news reporting death after death. Our poor children's minds must be racing. Every day they get up and carry on despite all that's going on. So, here's to our little heroes: today, tomorrow, forever.*

### **Birthdays next week ...**

These are the birthdays from last week and this week. Happy birthday to:

Ciara in Year 1

Lexi in Year 5

Steven in Year 2

Lazarus in Year 4

Damian in Year 4

Jaden in EYFS

Harley in Year 6



We hope you have (had) the best day!

### **Remote Learning**

If you are struggling with devices, please remember I mentioned we had a small number of laptops and ipads that we are happy to loan out if they would help. We are still waiting to receive any from the government. If an exercise book or paper would help you please let the member of staff know from the list below.

As a reminder the email addresses for the staff that can support you with remote learning are:

#### **EYFS**

[bethan.rowe@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:bethan.rowe@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk)

#### **Year 1 and Year 2**

[charlotte.stott@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:charlotte.stott@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk)

[donna.hall@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:donna.hall@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk)

[katy.spreckley@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:katy.spreckley@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk)

#### **Year 3 and Year 4**

[gina.wagstaff@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:gina.wagstaff@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk)

[luke.ellis@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:luke.ellis@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk)

#### **Year 5 and Year 6**

[claire.moore@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:claire.moore@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk)

[emma.nicholl@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:emma.nicholl@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk)

Next week we will be starting the daily drop ins so look out for information about this.

