



Weekly Newsletter: Testing Times! 29th January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I apologise for the newsletter not going out yesterday but our internet was down for the entire day.



This week we welcomed back our Key Stage 2 children to school after their period of self-isolation and it felt good to hear more children's voices. For us, it really hit home the impact that COVID has had on our country when they announced that there had been 100,000 deaths. When we first went into lockdown in March last year, I don't think any of us imagined the severity of it.

Testing Times

Last week I mentioned that we were starting COVID testing of staff. We are testing on a Tuesday and a Friday morning. The process is that if a member of staff tests positive then the class/es they have been working in close immediately. The member of staff immediately books a full PCR test. If this is positive then the class/es remain closed and 10 days of self-isolation take place. If the PCR test comes back negative then the class/es will immediately reopen.

Please note the tests are being used to reduce the spread of the virus by identifying asymptomatic people (people who carry the virus but do not have any symptoms) who would not otherwise be identified.

Remote Learning

- This week we launched are loom lessons in Maths. This is where you see the teacher explaining the lesson and the flipcharts. Thank you to those who fed back that your children had responded really well to these.
- Next week we will increase it so there are 5 loom Maths lessons across the week.
- One area where we are hoping to support you more with is uploading work onto Google classroom. Through our phone calls we know that the majority of children are completing learning each day. If you can upload their work then your child will get vital feedback and encouragement, which will motivate them further. It also allows us to track their progress so when school returns to normal we know what the children have accessed at home and therefore we won't lose precious learning time.
- As not all staff are in school, support phone calls will often come from a withheld number as staff are using their personal phones. These calls are genuinely to see if you are all ok and to see if we can help at all.
- The daily drop-ins continue to be a huge success and a lot of fun! If your child hasn't joined yet then get in touch and we'll support you to access them.
- Laptops and I-pads – we have loaned out a good number of our laptops and i-pads. Remember if you are struggling with technology then please let us know immediately. If we have any spare equipment, it is there to support you at home while you support us by keeping your children safely at home.
- If you are completing paper packs of learning at home, please return them on a Monday when you pick up your new pack and we will mark the work. It will then be returned the following Monday.

Children in school

As you are aware, we have a mixture of children in school, who are part of the vulnerable and critical worker category. We can currently operate relatively safely in most year groups but, in order to maintain social distancing there may come a point when we have to seek to refuse or set further criteria for places. The DfE has said in its guidance '**parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can**'. As such, we ask that, if you are a critical worker, you only send your child into school when there is no other choice.

Lockdown reminder

Throughout this national lockdown all children should continue to comply with the rules set out for tier 4. Parents are asked to help ensure their children are following these rules. This particularly includes those related to mixing with other households when they are not at school and when they are travelling to and from educational settings.

Thank you

Thanks to the parents who have taken the time to pass on their thanks to the school staff who have diligently provided work, checked on work and contacted families. It is a small word thanks but means so much. All messages sent to school are passed on to the staff—it really gives the staff such a lift.

Thanks to all the staff, parents and Morrisons who have provided food for our foodbank. If you are in need of support please let us know and we can have a food bag made up that day for you. *No judgement, just care.*

Thanks also to all the parents who—recognising we are in lockdown—are seeking to follow the government advice and stay at home. As a school we recognise it is not an easy thing to do but without it we would not be able to open safely for those who most need school at this time. Please know we are here for you and if we can support you in any way do let us know.



The Great Bredbury Bake Off

How fabulous was cake week! Ciara in Year 1 was delighted with her prize. Remember on Monday we are judging for biscuit week. I can't wait to see the entries.

I must add that the staff are also loving this competition and becoming very competitive!

Have a peaceful and safe weekend.

Any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

E. Harding

Mrs Harding

Acting Headteacher

Head's weekly awards

So this week's awards go to:

- Daley in Year 6 for some amazing writing.
- Teeyna in Reception for excellent home learning.
- Renae in Year 4 for joining our school during a pandemic but settling in just beautifully.



Birthdays next week ...

Next week we are celebrating the following birthdays. Happy birthday to:

- ✓ Evie-Mae in Reception
- ✓ Sam in Year 2
- ✓ Lexi in Year 4



We hope you have the best day!

Remote Learning

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

Year 1 and Year 2

charlotte.stott@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk

donna.hall@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk

katy.spreckley@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk

Year 3 and Year 4

gina.wagstaff@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk

luke.ellis@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk

Year 5 and Year 6

claire.moore@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk

emma.nicholl@st-marks.stockport.sch.uk



Important Dates

Friday 12th February 2020: School finishes for half term

Monday 22nd February: School closed to **ALL** children for INSET day

Tuesday 23rd February: School re-opens to children of COVID critical key workers and vulnerable children

