

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been Children's Mental Health week. We hope you have enjoyed some of the activities sent home, particularly Wellbeing Wednesday. The children continue to keep impressing us in school and at home. The children in school have had a lovely week which has seen banana bread, cakes and pizza being made. The school has smelt lovely! The children at home have been doing really well with the home learning. They have been submitting some outstanding writing and maths and I have really enjoyed looking at some of the photos as well.

We know how hard it is with the home learning and we really appreciate everything you are doing. However, our numbers in school continue to rise and we now have 45% of the school in with Keyworker and vulnerable children which is one of the highest in the community. Some other schools only have 10-20% in. The government message is still to stay at home if you can. It is safer for you and your family and safer for the school. We know it is getting harder with each passing week but there is only one week to go until half term and then hopefully after that we will receive news from the government about what is happening from 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**Poppy Appeal**

The Royal British Legion contacted me this week to say thank you. We raised £68.25 last term through selling the poppies at school. Thank you to everyone who donated to the appeal.

**Internet Safety**

Next Tuesday is Safer Internet day. With children using the Internet more than ever at the moment I thought I would draw your attention to this search engine: Swiggle

Swiggle is a child-friendly search engine developed by South West Grid for Learning and built on the Google Safe Search technology. It is free, ad free, has a reporting page for children and adults, active blocking of inappropriate search strings and even a Swigglebot to give advice.

For more information go to the link below and look at the menu (top right of page)

<https://swiggle.org.uk/>

**Half term and Non-Pupil day**

Just a reminder that half-term starts on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February. There is a Non-Pupil day on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February so the children return to school/home learning on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

**PE**

We continue to add more information to our school website and Facebook page.

Under the Coronavirus/remote learning tab there is a PE section with lots of information about ways to keep active and continue doing PE as part of remote learning. I know Mrs Turner would love to see some photos of exercises or challenges you have been doing. Please send them to [pe@stjo.uk](mailto:pe@stjo.uk)

**Stories read by staff**

On the school website under the Coronavirus/remote learning tab there is also a section called Stories read by staff. Some of the teachers and myself have recorded ourselves reading stories which we thought the children might enjoy. Reading for pleasure is so important for the children so please take a look and show your children.

Best wishes

Mrs Taylor-Bashford