



St. George's CEP Newsletter

Issue 14: January 10th 2021

'Bringing faith and education together'

Our value this term is **COURAGE**

Be strong, be courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the lord your God will be with you wherever you go - Joshua 1:9

Well there was a chance that schools would be moving back to remote school educating but no one expected the announcement to come so last minute. So, firstly can I take this chance to say Happy New Year properly to you as prior to this all my communications have been trying to get as much information as I could to you and working with staff in preparation for the first day of term on the 4th January.

I appreciate the first week has been a whirlwind and bombardment of information, emails and uncertainty around remote learning but by the end of the week, I have been astounded by the adjustments staff have made to switching planning and delivery of lessons from classroom face to face to being in front of a camera all week and how you've all embraced the new learning many of you are doing in your own homes. Your messages sent to both your child's teacher and directly to myself have been a great source of positivity in what's started as a challenging year. As time moves on, I am sure things will start to settle as we get into a rhythm and become easier for us all.

Moving to an education online is an enormous learning curve and one that can be very daunting for some of us. The children though embrace it as they've grown up in this technological world. I'm not adverse to doing my weekly worship remotely as I've been doing this in school for quite a few months now. What I didn't know was how I'd feel seeing so many faces individually in one go! When I hit that 'Admit All' the faces just kept popping up. I'm not going to lie I felt a little sick. The irony of the content of my worship being about having a bit of courage to overcome fear! Just seeing the children's smiling faces soon made me remember this was about connecting us all together rather than what I actually said.

I'm aware that you'll be receiving increased volume of information from school so my weekly newsletter will be put onto the school website for you and we will just send out a text so you know it's there.

Respect

Courage

Kindness

Forgiveness

Hope

Honesty

You can find out about what's going on at St George's in a variety of ways:

Visit the school website: www.st-georges-wrotham.kent.sch.uk/

Follow us on twitter: @StGeorgesKent

Keep up to date with newsletters on our website and keep an eye on the class pages

TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT

Last week we spent a long time supporting families to get you all online for your remote learning, Class Dojo and Zoom have been the main ways you can effectively access your child's class learning on a daily basis.

Last Friday Mr Jones held a Class Dojo surgery for questions and Ms Chin a Zoom Surgery for people with questions. Thank you to those of you that phoned in as I know how helpful you found this support. Should you have missed them please call the school to we can get someone to support you.

Should you need any further technological support then do not hesitate to get in connect with us in school between 10am and 12pm.

Ensuring every child can access remote education remains a priority shared by Government, the County Council, and schools. The DfE is working with mobile network operators to help schools support disadvantaged pupils in years 3 to 11 who rely on a mobile internet connection. Disadvantaged families may be able to benefit from free increases to their mobile data. Schools can request these free mobile data increases for families during the spring and summer 2021 terms [here](#). If you need further support, then please call the school.

PRIMARY ASSESSMENTS UPDATE

In another U-turn the Government has now officially cancelled all statutory assessments from Year 1 to 6. This includes the Year 1 phonics screening, Year 4 Maths Times Tables Test as well as the Year 2 and 6 SATs. We are still awaiting a response regarding the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. However, please can I make this clear that although statutory reporting has been scrapped, schools are **STILL EXPECTED TO DO INTERNAL ASSESSMENTS** so the announcement makes no difference to the assessments our teachers would do. I must stress that teachers can only make their assessments based on the work the children are completing remotely. Therefore, completing work on a daily basis and attending the zoom is very important.

E-READING

Watch out later this week on a big change to our reading books. Behind the scenes Miss Gower and the class teachers have been getting up to speed with moving reading books to E-books to help support your child's reading at home!