



We are growing
our learning

St John's Green Primary School

Learn to Live, Live to Learn

Volume 47, Issue 1

Newsletter Date:
Friday 9th January 2021

We ♥
Maths

We are all
writers ...



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Welcome Back (Sort Of)

Not the start of a new calendar year that any of us wanted especially following the successes of the Autumn Term.

We are however, where we are and this first newsletter of the new year will be very much dominated by all things Coronavirus related.

Coronavirus, aside, I will start by wishing you all the very best for the new year—the only way is up.



Xbox/Play Station

Some of our parents have already cracked this, but others may not have been aware.



PlayStation.

Your child's xbox/play station can be used to facilitate their on-line learning. On page 2 of the newsletter we have pasted some instructions that tell you how to set up the xbox/playstation.

The one sticking point is a keyboard. Luckily we have a solution to that—the school will lend you a keyboard.

If you haven't yet considered using your child's xbox/playstation, then please do and if you would like to borrow a keyboard please e-mail: support@stjohnsgreen.org.uk

Remote On-Line Learning.

First of all to all parents—thank you. This, for many of you, has been a brave new world with regards to 'live' on-line learning and you have embraced it with aplomb.

The children have been absolutely magnificent and although not without several teething problems, it has I'm sure you'll agree been brilliant for the children.

As everyone becomes more familiar with it, it will become easier and children will become more confident.

My main piece of advice for parents is to try not to linger too much (if at all) once you have got your children set up—and for the older children you don't even need to do that.

The children will soon pick it up and will very quickly learn from their mistakes when they leave meetings by mistake.

Instead, think of it as them being at school at home—and as you wouldn't be stood over them at school, you don't need to be stood over them at home. If you're at a loose end, find yourself something else to do...

Thank you as well to those parents who have taken the time to e-mail in to the school to thank the teachers and staff for what they're doing on-line. Whilst we have had a few complaints from parents—these are far outweighed by the parents who have written in to say thank you and brilliant and these are very much appreciated.

Book Borrow @ AF

Our 'Book Borrow' trolley is still at AF in the entrance lobby. If you would like to come and borrow some books, then please pop in to the foyer at AF and select the books you want to borrow. You can then return them on your next visit.

Please remember to wear a face mask when coming onto the school site.



Awards

Year 6 (Class Bubble) - Henry (RREX)

Year 6 (Mrs Wall) - Yan (MM)

Year 6 (Mrs Smith) - Elif (MM)

Year 5 (Class Bubble) - Jacob (MM)

Year 5 (Miss Kerr) - All Children (RREX)

Year 5 (Miss Stockwell) - Bethany (MLM)

Year 4 (Class Bubble) - Blake (MM)

Year 4 (Mrs Hancock) - Dominic (RREX)

Year 4 (Miss Mitchell) - All Children (RREX)

Year 3 (Class Bubble) - Kai (RREX)

Year 3 (Mrs O'Shea) - Sofia-Rae (MM)

Year 3 (Miss Aston) - Lilly-Grace (MM)

Year 2 (Class Bubble) - All Children (MM)

Year 2 (Miss Pickard) - All Children (RREX)

Year 2 (Mrs Kibbler) - All Children (RREX)

Year 1 (Class Bubble) - All Children (MM)

EYFS (Class Bubble) - Aston (RREX)

HUB— Lucas (RROX)

"Practice isn't the thing you do once you're good. It's the thing you do that makes you good." - Malcolm Gladwell

At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.
Jane D. Hull

YOUR CHILD WILL FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE, NOT YOUR ADVICE.

Key Worker and Vulnerable Children

There's been an awful lot in the news over the last couple of days with regards to both Key Worker children and Vulnerable children and school places.

On Sunday 3rd September, the school e-mailed all parents in the school advising you that we were now closed to all children apart from Key Worker and Vulnerable children and that parents who required a place in school must confirm with us by 11.00 a.m. Monday 4th January. The school followed this up with a text message which was sent at the same time.

The reasoning and necessity for the timings on this are quite simple. The school needed to allocate it's teaching and support staff to cover classes both in school and for remote learning.

All those parents who responded at the time and met the criteria were allocated a place.

As the school has communicated numerous times with parents through the newsletter about the importance of ensuring you are receiving those electronic messages, parents should not in any way be blaming us if you didn't get them or didn't respond in time.

This meant that we allocated teaching and support staff accordingly for in school and remote learning. As such, the year group classes we have in school are now at class capacity.

Teachers teaching remotely are teaching a full day on-line and supporting the children through the day with the activities that they have been set. The exceptions to this is when teachers have their PPA/release time in which case work will have been set electronically and support staff will continue to monitor and support the children electronically.

The only way to facilitate extra children in school is to remove a teacher from on-line learning and relocate them in school. However, this would leave one teacher responsible for the remote learning of over fifty children which is unreasonable and impractical.

This is a very long way of saying that whilst I fully appreciate the challenges and difficulties that parents are experiencing at home with live teaching. Parents should not now be demanding school places because they now deem themselves to be vulnerable or because they have suddenly realised they are a Key Worker. Parents should have responded to the e-mail and communications at the start of the week!

So the school faces some large challenges going forward. I cannot simply increase class numbers in school to accommodate every parent that is now contacting the school. The admitting of additional children facilitates the moving of school staff who are set up based on the responses we received at the start of the week.

We will consider the requests we receive from parents on a case by case basis but the school will make the final decision as to a child's vulnerability, not the parents.

We have also been asked to advise and remind you that we are in the middle of a pandemic. The reason schools have been partially closed is to limit contact!

So, for parents that have contacted us after the given date. Please be patient and we will consider your requests, but I will not simply admit additional children on a whim or increase class sizes to facilitate it. If I need to operate with additional classes I will, but this will be considered and managed and done in the way that best protects the interests of the children and staff.

Data

Many network providers are offering/providing free upgrades/free data to support children's on-line learning.

The advice is that you contact your network provider yourself and explain that you are educating your children at home, that the school's lessons are live through Microsoft Teams and you'd like their support.

If you still encounter problems after this approach, then please contact the school. But, going through the school requires a fair bit of form filling and personal information, which is why it would be better if you're able to do this yourself.

And Finally,

My father, has for years been completing the Christmas Quiz for years, without yet attaining 100%, much to his chagrin. This year I received his quiz entry about 3 days after Christmas with him extolling the fact that this year was his year! It obviously remains unmarked at the present time—I doubt he's scored 100%! The closing date for the Christmas Quiz entries is Monday 18th January. Please send them into the school before then. The quiz is still on the home page of the school website should you have misplaced your paper copy.

Have a good Weekend

Simon Billings

Using Xbox or PlayStation to access Office 365

Accessing your remote learning. An alternative method of accessing remote learning during times of lockdown.

Xbox

1. Plug a keyboard in to the Xbox USB slot (less than £10 from Amazon)
2. Go in to my games and apps
3. Find Microsoft Edge and select
4. Type in [Office 365](#) and log in as you would in school
5. You can then access your work and use key packages including:
 - Word
 - Excel
 - PowerPoint
 - Teams
 - Your emails
6. To move around you use the Xbox controller or plug in a mouse

PlayStation

1. Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (it is WWW with dots around it)
2. Press the PlayStation logo on the controller
3. Go to the library and find options for games and applications
4. Go in to applications and you will find the internet browser
5. Type in [Office 365](#) and log in as you would in school
6. You can then access your work and use key packages including:
 - Word
 - Excel
 - PowerPoint
 - Teams
 - Your emails