ST JOHN THE BAPTIST RCP SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 12th February 2021



Dear Parents,

We have finally made it to the end of term and the strains of the current lockdown are showing on everyone. The numbers in school have continued to rise and we are nearing having 50% of our children in school and 50% accessing remote learning.

I know that the challenges of balancing home, work and child care have never been greater and this is felt by both parents and teachers alike. The profession that our teachers signed up for is so very different from what they are currently being asked to do as class teachers. I am however immensely proud of our teaching and support staff and the seamless transition that they achieved in switching from live teaching to remote learning. Also, the addition of daily live sessions has caused a great air of excitement through school over the past two weeks and the teachers have enjoyed these sessions as much as the pupils have. We have also noticed increased motivation from our pupils who are joining these meetings.

With all that in mind we are all well and truly ready for a much deserved break as this term has been a whirlwind. Whilst we may be prevented from meeting our friends and families and have no option to jump on a train or plane to visit attractions and venues, we can enjoy time at home Let's hope that we will be blessed with some bright weather to allow us all to enjoy the outdoors and some quality time with our families.



Our newsletter today is a lengthy one but we have tried to include photos to show the full breadth of what is going on in and out of school ss we can. Live sessions with the children's class teachers and the setting of work on the website will resume on Monday 22nd February.

Have a great weekend and a lovely half term break.
God Bless

Mrs McKeating



LENT

Next week marks the start of Lent– a time of reflection, prayer and giving to others.

Please do your best to highlight Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday within your family. It is so sad that we are unable to be in church together but never has the power of prayer and helping others been so important.

When we return to school each class will be deciding on their Lent Charity and planning their fundraising events and these will be included in our next newsletter.



COVID SYMPTOMS AND REPORTING

May I remind you all that if any member of your family presents with the highly advertised covid symptoms you should:



- Get **ALL members** of their family to **self isolate immediately**
- **Book** a test
- Go for a **covid test.**
- Ensure that the **whole family** continue to **self issolate** until the results are returned.

If a child has a positive test result then they must contact Mrs McKeating on head@st-john.lancs.sch.uk.

This is especially important during half term as this will be the only email address that is monitored on a daily basis.

If a child presents with symptoms within the period of 48 hours from leaving school on Friday 12th February then I would need to contact all direct contacts within their bubble to ask them to self isolate during half term.

REMINDER



School will close to ALL PUPILS today for the Half Term Break.

School will re-open on Monday 22nd February to:

- Critical Workers' children & Vulnerable Children in Rec–Y6
- ALL NURSERY CHILDREN

Online leaning will re-commence on the same day.

PARENTS EVENING FOR RECEPTION TO YEAR 6 PUPILS

Each year we have our annual Parent's evening during the week beginning the 15th March. As the children have not been in school since December it seems inappropriate to keep to same timings and I feel it would be more beneficial to delay this to a later date when we have the children back in school.

PARENTS EVENING NURSERY

As you are well aware our Nursery was not included in the National Lockdown and has remained fully open since September 2020. As the children are in school everyday we will be keeping to our normal reporting timetable and parents will be invited to attend a meeting with their Nursery Teachers during the week beginning the 15th March. We will be in touch after half term with details of how to book your appointment and in what format the meeting will take place.

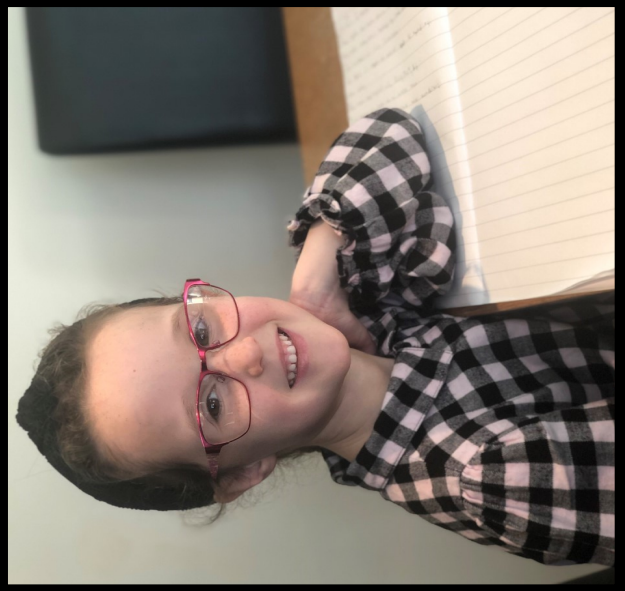
Support staff



Could I take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the team of non-teaching staff we have here at St Johns– the lunchtime welfare team, the kitchen ladies, our cleaners and the office team who are all doing a great job supporting me and the class teams at keeping the school running in these trying times. The school machine goes on and they are all an integral part to the daily life of school.

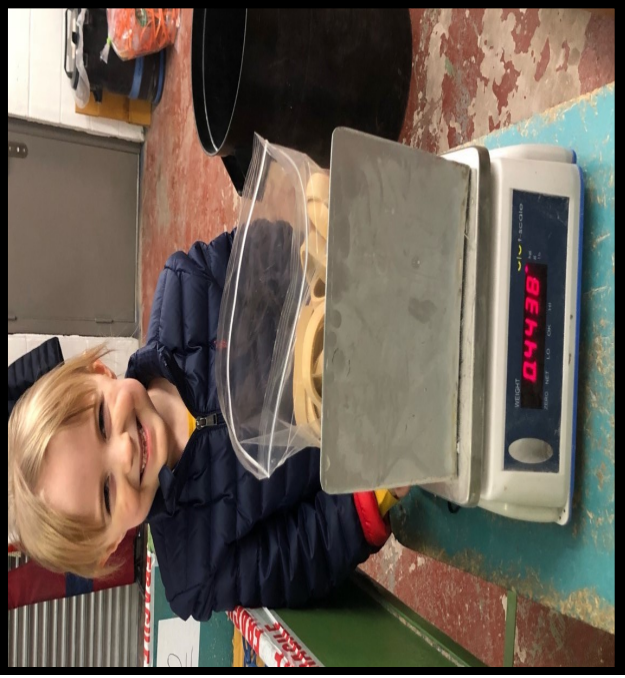
Some of our Y2 Super Star Home Learners













Let us pray

Please remember in your prayers the Coates family and the Morgan family who have both suffered the loss of a loved one recently.



Please continue your prayers for baby Caleb Morgan who is still poorly in hospital.

Nursery News



Throughout the National Lockdown period the government has excluded Nursery settings from its restrictions and urged schools to keep Nursery classes fully open.

We have stayed OPEN and have had a steady attendance of approximately 65% of children attending every day and we thank parents for allowing them to continue their learning in class alongside their friends and with the Nursery Team.

The EYFS classrooms are regularly "fogged" with antibacterial mist and equipment is cleaned down throughout the day. Staff wear full PPE for intimate care and the rooms are fully ventilated and the outside classroom is in constant use.

Whilst we recognise the worries that families have in these times, the mainstay of our EYFS curriculum is to help the children to learn and experience a range of social interaction and communication skills which can only be done when they are learning and playing alongside their peers.



We appreciate that some families have a medical need to isolate but we would ask all other Nursery families to consider phasing their little ones back into class as soon as they feel able to after the half term break. It may even help you with your home-schooling of older siblings.

CREATIVE TASKS BY OUR EYFS CLASSES











AWARDS OF THE WEEK

HOME LEARNER OF THE WEEK

REC	Pippa Beresford
YR 1	Rosie Jarman
YR 2	Ava Rose Ramsbottom
YR 3	Helaina Beresford
YR 4	Rowan Bradford
YR 5	Theo Edwards
YR 6	Dylan Morris



SCHOOL LEARNER OF THE WEEK

REC	Emma Lynch
YR 1	Seth Molyneux
YR 2	Holly Savage
YR 3	Joshua Franklin
YR 4	Thomas Grace
YR 5	Libby Mount
YR 6	Bethany Redfern

Thank you!



Since the outbreak of Covid-19 this time last year school life has changed dramatically and whilst we have relied upon our technology more than ever before to ensure that the children can continue to access their education and communicate daily with school.

As you can imagine the need for our devices to function affectively and be readily available for all has never been greater. We therefore have committed a huge amount of our funding into supporting and developing our facilities at St Johns. We have also applied to other sources for support with this.

I am delighted to inform you that we have had two very generous donations and an allocation of 16 laptops from the DFE which have greatly supported us in this area.

Thank you to Burnley Emergency Assisted Grants on behalf of Burnley Council for donating £2200 to support the purchase of a further 16 laptops for Y3 and Y4 pupils.

Thank you also to Mini Sport, Padiham for donating £1500 towards purchasing new stand alone machines for the pupils to work on in school.

Over the past year a great deal of money has been invested in updating our technology in school including Interactive Televisions in classrooms, Laptops for pupils and stand alone PCs in the classroom so that we can provide our teachers and pupils with the correct tools to access the latest technology. Thanks also to our IT technician, Mr Phil Butterworth for his weekly support in setting up the new equipment and tackling any issues.





Year 1 have been exploring the Polar regions, spreading the love through friendship and having a camp fire in the Arctic.





February Half Term – The 9-Day Challenge!

Saturday 13th February  *Be Still* See if you can be completely still and quiet for 5 minutes. Easy?	**Sunday 14th February**  *Love* Think about someone you love. Write down 5 things you love about them.	**Monday 15th February**  *Reflect* Think about yourself. Write down 5 things you like about yourself.
Tuesday 16th February  *Draw* Choose an object or view, look at it really carefully, and draw it.	**Wednesday 17th February**  *Walk* It doesn't matter where or for how long, but go for a walk & get some fresh air.	**Thursday 18th February**  *Talk* Talk to someone about the things that worry or upset you – you'll feel better!
Friday 19th February  *Laugh* See if you can make someone laugh – can they make you laugh too?	**Saturday 20th February**  *Make* Make something, anything! a model, a cake, a puppet, a book, a noise, a wish!	**Sunday 21st February**  *Play* Play a game that is NOT on a computer screen – a board game or party game.

Pancakes



You will need

200g	plain flour
400ml	milk
2	large eggs, lightly whisked
1 tbsp	vegetable oil
	a pinch of salt
	vegetable oil for frying



Let's Make Together!

1. Put the flour in a large bowl with a pinch of salt, make a well in the centre, pour in the milk and eggs, then whisk until you have a smooth batter. Add the vegetable oil and whisk again.
2. Take a large frying pan and carefully wipe the inside of the pan with some kitchen roll dipped in vegetable oil.
3. With a grown-ups help heat the pan over a medium heat for about a minute, then add just under a ladleful of batter to the pan and immediately start swirling it around to get a nice even layer.
4. Cook the pancake for about 30 seconds then use a palette knife or spatula to lift the pancake carefully and check that it's golden-brown before turning over. Cook the other side for around 30 seconds and your delicious pancake is ready!



Grown-ups

If you like, you could give your little one a selection of toppings to sprinkle on their own pancake - if children feel 'in charge' of their own food, they're more likely to try out new things and be adventurous!

The 5 Finger Prayer

Thumb: Those closest to you, your family.

Pointer: Those that point you in the right direction (teachers, doctors, priests) ask for wisdom & support.

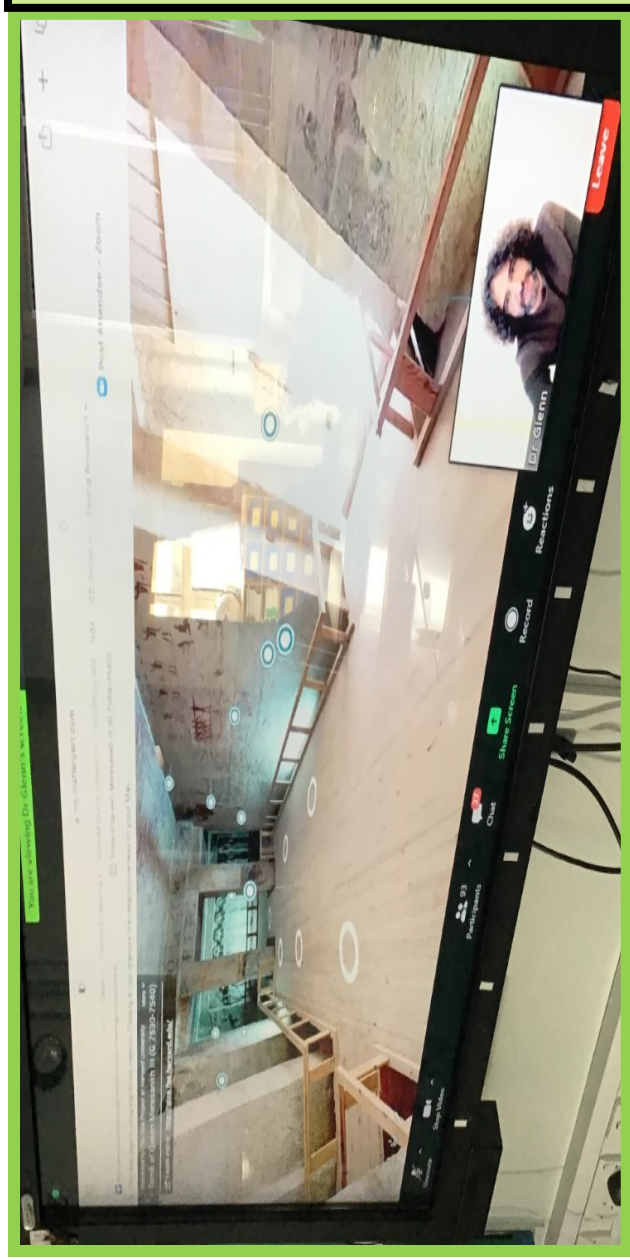


Index: (tallest) Those that lead us, (Government) ask for guidance & wisdom.

Ring: (weakest) Those that are weak, in trouble, or in pain. We cannot pray too much for them.

Pinkie: (smallest) Our prayers for ourselves & our own needs.

Y4 Egyptian Mummification Virtual Live session with Dr Glenn and the Children's University













8 WAYS TO HELP CHILDREN STRUGGLING DURING LOCKDOWN

5



Keep children learning

Using fun and creative ways at home to learn alongside continued access to educational opportunities will support your children's development.



6



Limit screen time and mix up activities

As most socialising moves online, it's important to have conversations on how an increase in screen time can have an impact on everyone'smental health and self-esteem.



7



Help your child manage stress

If you spot signs your child might be struggling, it's important to talk to them. Keep talking and trying to communicate in any way you can – hugging, listening to them, texting them, etc.



8



Expressing feelings doesn't have to be face-to-face

Children might find it easier writing their thoughts down, so the whole family could do this and put them in a 'feelings box' and then talk about their good, sad or difficult feelings at the end of the day.



KEEPING MINDS AND BODIES HEALTHY

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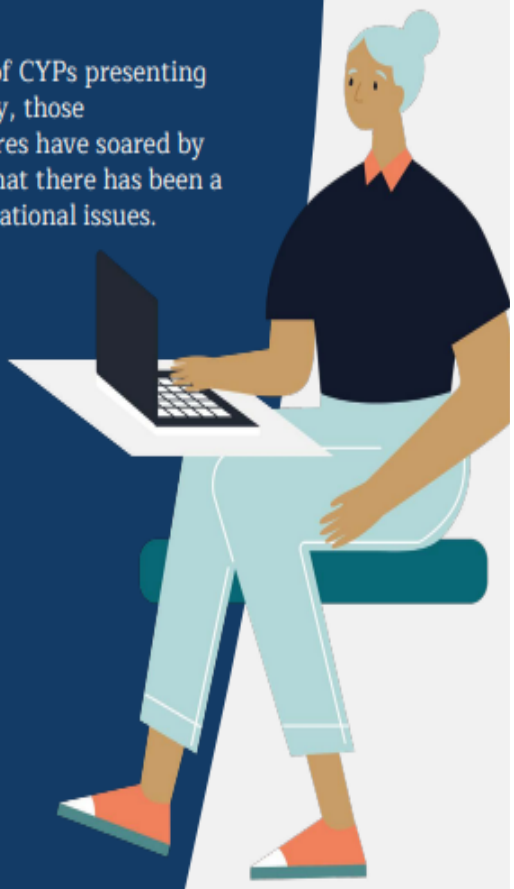
Analysis: 13-18

How Covid-19 Continues to Affect the Mental Health of Young People in the United Kingdom

Weeks 40-43 vs entire pandemic period

2020 has been an exceptionally difficult year for everyone. Here at Kooth, we have seen how the Covid-19 restrictions have had devastating implications especially on the mental health and wellbeing of young people. As the coronavirus pandemic continues to rage on, Kooth's latest data reveals that young people are continuing to show increased symptoms of specific presenting issues.

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of CYPs presenting with school/college issues - up 42%. Correspondingly, those experiencing issues around exams and exam pressures have soared by 38%. It is, perhaps unsurprising, therefore, to see that there has been a 28% increase in young people presenting with aspirational issues.



Kooth saw a dramatic 42% rise in school and college issues during weeks 40-43 compared to the start of the pandemic

It has never been more important to offer safe, accessible and early help to those who are suffering with their mental health and emotional wellbeing. Technology offers us the chance to overcome the significant barriers we all face in delivering this critical support.

For those feeling suicidal or experiencing relationship problems - or any of the raft of mental and emotional problems we see on Kooth every single day - knowing that timely support is available online is a real lifeline.

LOOKING AFTER YOUNG MINDS

LOOKING AFTER YOUNG MINDS



Young people struggling with aspiration issues

With lives being turned upside down by Covid-19, young people have been forced to abandon their goals and aspirations.



Exam stress is on the rise

The anxiety that tends to predate exams around spring time is already evident, with many students having missed crucial learning time.



42% rise in school & college issues

Students are facing enormous mental health challenges. Anxiety about school closures, social isolating and concerns over school work are taking a toll.



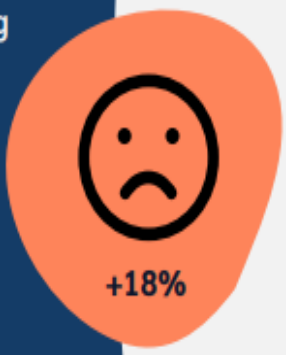
Substance misuse on the rise

As parents have coped with additional stressors during Covid-19, alcohol consumption rates have increased.



Spike in self-harming behaviours

Young people have lost so many connections, habits, activities and enjoyment this year. This can lead to feelings of isolation and self-harming.



Sadness levels peaked week 42

Feeling of sadness, anxiety and low mood are being widely felt by CYPs. These are 'normal' responses to a very 'abnormal' situation.

The presenting issues are registered against a service user following any interaction that displays this issue. This is typically during counselling, but could also be during any other interaction, such as comments in a forum. The comparison to last year is based on the proportion of the users that have presented with the particular issue, compared to the average during the pandemic] during the same time period. Dataset size: 88,410 | Dataset period: Weeks 40-43, 2020 vs Weeks 10-43, 2020

Media enquiries: media@kooth.com

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Pupil & Parent/ Carer Agreement for using TEAMs for Live Learning Sessions

Pupils and Parents / Carers will:

- Be available to learn remotely at the specified time.
- Be dressed appropriately (No nightwear).
- Not eat or drink during the session.
- Participate in the session in a communal area of the home e.g. living room not a bedroom.
- Mute/unmute the microphone when directed by the teacher.
- Turn cameras on and off when directed by the teacher.
- Behave in a respectful manner in line with our Behaviour Policy.
- Not interrupt the teacher, use the raise your hand or chat facility if you need to speak to the teacher.
- Not take or record any images of the online learning session and subsequently share those images with anyone.
- Inform school if their child is unwell and enable to join the session.
- Contribute in a positive manner.
- Ensure work is completed as set and to the best of their ability.
- Report any issues to the school as soon as possible.

If there is a requirement to upload work from a lesson, then this should be done by 6pm on the day of the lesson.

If any of these rules are not adhered to pupils will be rejected from the meeting and the meeting may end for all.