



St Andrew's Newsletter

24th April 2020

Growing and learning together with God

Welcome to the official start of the Summer Term. What an incredibly strange time this is, for all of us; those who are away from school and those who are still able to come to school. I do hope that wherever you are, that you do still feel very much a part of the St. Andrew's CofE Primary School family.

I want to reassure all of you at home that you are doing the most amazing job of caring for your children, keeping them safe from this virus, and supporting them through such challenging and uncertain times. It has been lovely to see that many families have begun to do some work at home this week, as the official start of the new term. We have now sent out packs of work to all our families, so there is something for everyone to do. All of the staff love to see the photos and videos of children's work, but we also love to see and hear about children doing ordinary things at home; ordinary but important, practical, life skills.

When this crisis is over and children return to school, it will be more important that they have been safe, well and happy while away from school. If they have gained new skills such as loading the dishwasher, planting some seeds, helping to bake cakes, supporting younger siblings with bath time, doing some DIY then this will be fantastic. There will be no need for comparison between peers or between families. We will be here to support, nurture, guide, plug the gaps, mend the sorrows, deal with anxieties, ease them back into whatever the school of the future looks like.

There are no national tests or benchmarks to worry about, so my message at this time is just carry on doing what you are doing. You know best for your child at this time. Please do not worry, and also remember that we are still here.

School is open every day, so you can always telephone the main school office, or send a Dojo message to your child's class teacher. We want to keep in touch with *all* our families, and help everyone in every way we can right now.

Congratulations!

Last night, at 11:30pm Luke Benjamin Astill was born! Congratulations to Mrs Astill, Miss Biddle and Jacob on the new addition to their family.

Mum and baby are doing well and hoping to be sent home from hospital today. I am certain they will put up some photos on Class Dojo when they are ready and able to.

School Insights

Messages sent to families

549

440 Last week



Photos and videos shared

732

188 Last week



Positive feedback %

100%

100% Last week



Welcome

Just before the holidays we welcomed 3 new pupils and their families to our school.

Even though they have not seen our school, and we have not met them yet, they have joined our virtual school for now, and have been welcomed on Class Dojo. We have Divine and Zoheib in Year 5, and Zion in Year 2.

They have already been active on Class Dojo; communicating with their class teachers and uploading work.

We hope to meet you all soon and look forward to getting to know you and your families well over the coming years.

Value

The value for this half term is Equity.
Equity means the quality of being fair or impartial.

Why we are doing what we are doing

Thank you again to all the parents who collected packs this week, and to those who have printed them or accessed them from home.

We know it is not easy to carry out home schooling at this time. There are lots of different activities and options out there – schools across the country are doing lots of different and wonderful things. All of us are making lots of very big decisions and adjustments within a very short space of time, and trying to do the very best for our families and school community.

Before Easter the Parents Council provided us with some brilliant feedback about what had been working well and what could be improved. We have acted on that.

Our decision at this moment in time is to provide a pack of work that should last at least 2 weeks for every child in school. We have asked that parents *try* to do 1 Maths or English activity each day plus one other activity. This could be from the pack, or it could be a practical, creative activity. We have decided to do optional Theme Days on Fridays, and we are sending out 1 or 2 extra ideas, suggestions or links via Class Dojo each day. In the background we also have our ongoing access to Mathletics and TT Rockstars for Years 1 to 6.

What we are *not* doing

We have made the decision not to do online lessons or video lessons at this time for 3 main reasons:

1. This was not what parents requested via Parents' Council
2. This is not appropriate for our staff who have families to support while they are working from home
3. This would not be fair on many of our families who do not have access to the technology for this kind of learning

We are already planning and preparing the next stage of remote learning for our pupils. We will again seek feedback and ideas via our usual methods of communication, and update you as soon as we can via ParentPay, Class Dojo and the class email addresses.

Class Dojo

As you can see from the picture on the front page, we are using Class Dojo to send and receive a huge number of messages each week. This has been brilliant during these lockdown conditions.

Sometimes staff will put up posts on the class or school story, sometimes they will send direct messages. Please make sure you check both of these sections of Class Dojo regularly, and make sure your alert notifications are set to tell you about new messages as well as class posts.

FSM Vouchers

Once again I can only apologise for the huge delay and problems that have been encountered by everyone trying to claim their free school meal vouchers through the Edenred site. This is a national problem. I will keep trying to order more vouchers.

If your working circumstances have changed due to Covid-19 and you believe you may be entitled to free school meals, please do email the school office for an application form.

For more information see

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

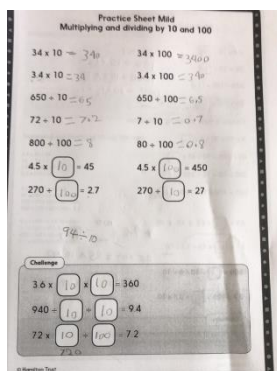
Hillingdon Food Bank

Due to the ongoing effect of the Covid-19 virus situation, last week saw the number of people requiring help nearly treble. Over 150 people were helped, many of them families, with food aid, usually it is 50/70. 2500kg of donated food was distributed last week alone which has resulted in low to no stock in the warehouse.

If families are able to, can they please take any donations to the Foodbank Warehouse
30 Oxford Road
UB9 4DQ

The main shortages are
Tinned meats and chicken
Tinned fish (all types)
Tinned fruit
Tinned tomatoes
Tinned vegetables
Tinned potatoes
Packets of Potato Mash
Pasta sauce
Long life milk
Long life fruit drinks Apple, orange, grapefruit etc.
Tea and Coffee.
Packets of rice
Noodles
500g and 1kg Granulated sugar
Jars of Jam all flavours

For further information please contact
Foodbank Manager
Vine Daniels
Tel.No. 07718054246



Some more amazing snapshots of the Dojo Portfolio posts.

ASTHMA ALERT

A message from Hillingdon Children's Asthma Team:

During this difficult time facing Covid-19, it is important to ensure your child's asthma remains well controlled and that you know when you should seek medical help.

- ❖ If your child has asthma and uses a preventer inhaler (**Beige/ Brown/ Orange/ Red/ Purple/Pink**) please make sure they are using this twice a day EVERY DAY as prescribed, even when well. REMEMBER ALWAYS USE WITH A SPACER.



- ❖ If your child needs their reliever inhaler (**Blue**) more than twice a week, for more than two weeks, please book a medical review with your GP/asthma nurse.
- ❖ If your child needs 10 puffs of their reliever (**Blue**) inhaler and are no better or are wheezing again within 4 hours, GIVE **ONE** FURTHER SET OF 10 PUFFS and seek urgent medical review at your nearest A&E

❖ **Please do not delay seeking medical attention when needed.**



Stay safe and take care.

Nicola Edwards

