



WEEKLY FOCUS

Friday 5th February 2021



Dear Parents

'Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.'
Hebrews 13:16

As you know, our school value at the minute is justice and we have been reflecting on our value in our Collective Worship this week. In times like this, when we are all feeling isolated and apart, it can be difficult to see how we can demonstrate the Christian ideal outlined in the quote above. As part of our mental health week, we have been asking the children to look after their mental health. We know that helping others, and sharing what we have, is also good for our own wellbeing so we are encouraging the children to think of others, even whilst we are physically apart. Phoning relatives, sharing things with a local old people's home, and helping out at home are just some of the things that we are encouraging our children to do at the moment.

I am pleased to let you know that we have a new vicar at St Marys! Dmitry Lutsenko attended our first governors' meeting on Wednesday and I know that he is looking forward to supporting our school over the coming years. The relationship between our school and the church is a precious one and the team at St Mary's has done a fantastic job maintaining our weekly 'Open the Book' assemblies, even during full lockdown. We are all looking forward to a time when we can be together in person once again.

With very best wishes,
Mrs Wand



Together with Music

We have recently partnered with a great organisation called Together with Music. This is a service that can help us stay in contact with the older members of our community.

Due the pandemic, we are no longer able to visit any local care homes like we used to. Together with Music have set up a portal which allows us to safely share online content with local care homes in the community. This is a great way for us to spread a little joy to people in Woking we cannot meet in person.

During lockdown we are proposing that any children who would like to, could create a video of themselves, playing an instrument, singing, reading poetry or even performing a dance or gymnastic routine. They can post this to their Seesaw feed where their teacher can access it and load it onto the Together with Music website.

To comply with GDPR you must also give specific consent to this via a Google document by clicking [here](#). Without this consent we cannot share any videos that are posted onto Seesaw. We look forward to seeing your wonderful talents and using them to spread joy into our community.

For more information about Together with Music, please click [here](#).

Polite reminder

We would like to remind those with children attending school during lockdown that school starts at **8:45am** and finishes at **3:15pm**.

We kindly ask that children do not arrive early and congregate outside the gate as this may result in mixing across bubbles. Please also be prompt for pick up, as staff need to vacate the building early to allow for deep cleaning each evening.

Half Term and Inset Days

Half term is **15th—19th February** is our half term. Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd February are inset days.

Our remote learning and provision for children of key workers will resume on **Wednesday 24th February**.

Details regarding a half term holiday club at Sythwood School, available to children of key workers, is attached separately. This is subject to minimum numbers.

Remote Learning Review

Thank you very much to all of the parents who completed our remote learning survey. This week we have:

1. Analysed the results of our parent and teacher surveys
2. Completed the government's 'Review your remote education provision' with input from our Chair of Governors
3. Undertaken an audit of our seesaw provision
4. Discussed our offer at a staff meeting and a meeting of the full governing body
5. Analysed the level of pupil engagement across the school
6. Attended webinars from the DFE

Our provision lines up very well with other schools when using the government's review tool and the majority of our parents feel that the quantity of work is about right. Many said that the recorded loom videos allow them flexibility as to when their child completes their work. Parents and teachers all feel that our current offer is a 'step up' from lockdown one and that there is greater consistency across the school. Parents value the phone call and the majority of children are enjoying the zoom playtimes. Having a screen free afternoon was seen as a positive step for our children's mental health. Finally, and most importantly, levels of pupil engagement are very high – and all teachers would like to thank parents for the fantastic support that you are providing for your children at this very difficult time.

Whilst many parents, children and teachers like the daily routine that has been established, some parents feel that their children are becoming less engaged as time has gone on. We are therefore looking at a few different ideas to change things up a little after half term and we are investigating ways of using the house system to motivate our children.

Providing adequate feedback and marking to young children is a challenge in a remote scenario. Our teachers aim to provide written or recorded feedback to English work. They check that the children have self-marked their maths, and may leave a comment if needed. They will 'like' foundation work, but often will not leave a comment. This does not mean that they haven't looked at the work – the 'like' is the equivalent of a tick. We would ask parents to check with children that they have read any comments and responded to any marking, as this will further help with their child's learning, and check that any photos of written work are in focus and the right way round for ease of marking. Teachers are also keeping detailed notes so that they know what to re-visit when we return to the classroom.



CHANCE TO SHINE
Spreading the power of cricket

Chance to Shine **Optional Cricket Sessions,** **Wednesdays at 2pm**

The current situation has created many challenges and barriers to getting children active. To combat this, Chance to Shine have developed a new Virtual Programme, enlisting two of their top coaches, Mas and Sophie, to guide teachers and children through a half-term of cricket skills and learning. The interactive sessions link directly to the PE National Curriculum outcomes and will help pupils to improve their personal, mental and social wellbeing as well as getting them active.

You can join in live, Wednesdays at 2pm:

<https://www.chancetoshine.org/live>

OR catch up at a time that suits you:

<https://www.chancetoshine.org/live-catch-up>



*Please note that this is an optional activity, you do not need to upload evidence to Seesaw.

Parent Conferences and Reports

Your child's snapshot report will be sent to you on **Friday 5th March**. As children are not in school for assessments, this will be a different format to normal and will outline their next steps.

Parent Conferences will take place **8th—12th March**. These will be virtual meetings, using the School Cloud system which we used last term. Further details of the dates and times for each class and how to sign up will be shared in due course.

Cross Country Challenge

Well done to all those who took part in the Virtual Cross Country Challenge— a fantastic achievement by all! It was lovely to see the improvement over the 10 runs and the PBs in everyone's times. Keep an eye out for more PE challenges!

Well-being afternoon

Friday 5th February

Dear children,

Thursday afternoons are screen free. This is to make sure we take time away from computers and keep our minds and bodies healthy. Here are some activities which you can complete. You can do some of these or your own ideas. You do not need to submit these on to Seesaw. This is an afternoon for you to enjoy and learn about what makes you happy!



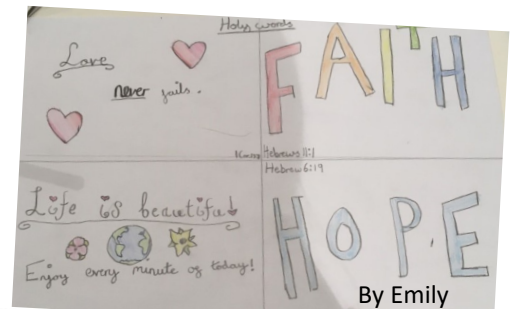
Connect	Be active	Take notice	Keep learning	Give
Activity: Sometimes we need to connect with the adults in our house too.	Activity: Have you tried the Couch to 5K NHS app?	Activity: Draw a map of your local area.	Activity: Create a bridge.	Activity: House work!
Instruction: Make time to talk to someone in your house. Some conversations you may wish to discuss: Ask them about their school days, what were their best memories? What was their favourite school dinner? What was their favourite lesson? It is nice to know these things.	Instruction: The app will guide you through how to build up to running 5K. The first sessions will mix up walking with a short jog. It takes it very slowly.	Instruction: This may involve taking a walk to nearby streets with an adult. Can you remember the key features? Have you seen any features which you haven't noticed before?	Instruction: Create a bridge which can hold a weight. It might be a dictionary or a big chapter book. This challenge might be one which someone in your house wants to join in with. Which bridge can hold the most? Maybe you want to work together to create a bridge.	Instruction: Is there a job you can help with around the house? Taking responsibility is an important role within your household. Tidying your room or helping with washing can really make a difference to you and others.
Optional extension: Do they have any photos of their time at school? Have a giggle at their old school photos!	Optional extension: Think about how you feel before the exercise and compare it to how you feel after.	Optional extension: Create a key to explain which features can't be clearly written onto your map.	Optional extension: Think like an engineer- what is it that made your bridge strong? Why might a bridge collapse?	Optional extension: Could you complete a task which makes someone happy? It may be kind words.

Rainbow-joy, world in a heart- God loves us, light on cross- Jesus is the light of our world, hands black and white- God has no skin colour.



God's good earth; Where is God?

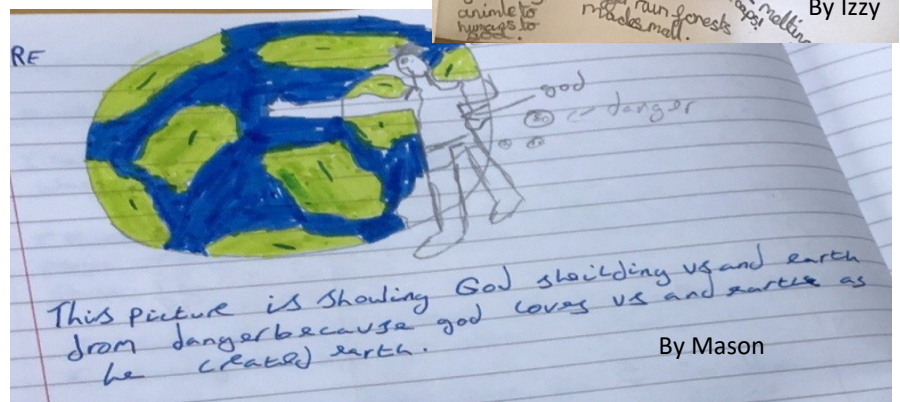
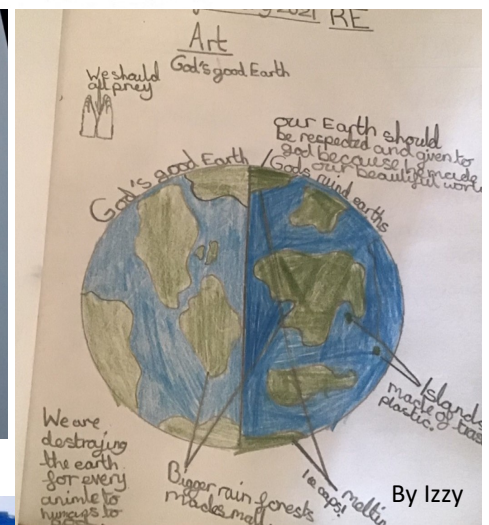
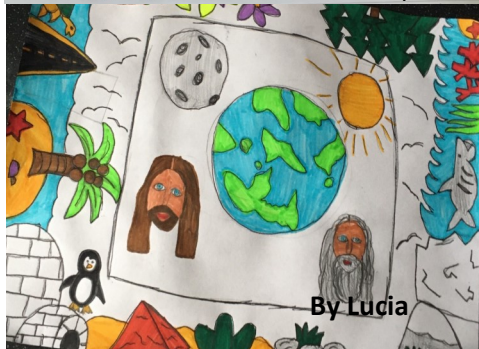
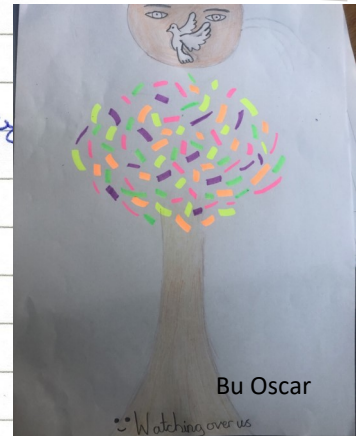
This was the topic in Year 6 RE lessons this week. Our children have proved to be very creative, creating artwork and poetry on this theme.



I have no hate for any one,
on this good Earth.
When God had made the Earth and Sky
The flowers and the trees,

And when he at last finished,
Not one was quite the same,
God said, 'I'll walk this Earth of mine
and give each one a name!'

By Jack F



Where is God? God is where ever we go and will follow us through the dark by lighting our pathways. I chose to do a candle as it represents a lot of things in a religious aspect but in this way it shows that God will guide us through the dark. I put a rainbow where the light shining would usually be as a rainbow now a days represents hope. The black background represents the unknown and darkness that we need help from God to make those unknown places a place that we will take care of and love.

By Kloe

Wellbeing Parent Toolkit

We know this is a particularly difficult time for many families. A Wellbeing Parent Toolkit, written by Nina Jackson and Kelly Hanaghan, is available free of charge [here](#).

Nina Jackson is an award-winning motivational speaker, a published author and an International Mental Health Advisor & Consultant. Kelly Hannaghan is a Mental Health & Wellbeing Consultant with 15 years' experience of working in education as well as being an award-winning motivational speaker, school improvement advisor and published author

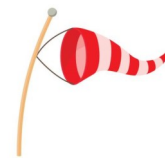
Included within the Mental Health and Wellbeing Guide for Parents is:

- Why Mental Health and Wellbeing is important.
- Being your child's role model.
- Five steps to Physical and Emotional Growth
- Supporting your child and the spotting the signs of emotional distress.
- Steps towards helping your children with anxiety, resilience and self-esteem.
- Steps towards helping your children with anxiety, resilience and self-esteem.
- Your positive mental health toolkit for your children

Half Term Activity—Make a Wind Sock

Surrey History Centre normally welcomes families to make crafts for half term, but this year they have gone virtual. To learn how to make a windsock and find out about some of the old windmills of Surrey, please visit:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjIz1P_1KuU



Surrey Arts Ensembles Virtual Come and Try Sessions



Surrey Arts ensembles will be holding come and try sessions week commencing 6 February. Their brochure is attached separately.

They would be delighted to welcome any of singers or instrumentalists - they don't need to be having lessons through Surrey Arts.

For more information and the Zoom log in details please ask them to email alison.harding@surreycc.gov.uk.

If students are unable to make the suggested dates they are welcome to try out a session at any point, they just need to contact Alison Harding on the above email address.



Do you have a spare room? Could you open your home and heart to a child?

Have you considered fostering? Meet a foster family in your local area and hear about their experiences.

Email foster carer **Cindy** at Cindyajmorris@gmail.com for more information and/or to request to join the online event.

Call **07851654544** if you have trouble joining the event!

Find out more about fostering: www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering



Tuesday
9th February 7:45pm

Friday
26th March 7:45pm

Thursday
8th April 3pm (half term)

Do you have a spare room? Could you open your home and heart to a child?

Have you considered fostering? Meet a foster family in your local area and hear about their experiences.

Email foster carer **Vicki** at Vickijonesey@outlook.com for more information and/or to request to join the online event.

Call **07807779017** if you have trouble joining the event!

Find out more about fostering: www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering



Saturday
13th February
11:30am



Year 6 have been working on lines of perspective in art. Here are three examples, produced by Len, Lizzie and Max.

