



January 2021 Newsletter

"Love one another as Jesus loved us" (John 13 v 34-35)

Jesus said, Love one another as I have loved you.

Through God's love and our Christian Values we encourage each individual to love, respect and value themselves and others.

We encourage and nurture the growth of every individual and their uniqueness so that all flourish and become all that they can be and all that God made them to be

Dear Parents, Children & Friends,

Firstly, I would like to start our first newsletter of this term by wishing you all a Happy New Year. It already seems like weeks and weeks have passed since we returned.

As you are aware, all schools in England are now only open to children of Critical Workers or to those pupils deemed to be Vulnerable. We would much rather all of our children were in school but we fully respect the lockdown supporting our country's response to tackling COVID 19.

The Government guidance for Critical Workers has recently been updated and states:

*Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school if required, but parents and carers **should** keep their children at home if they can.*

In order to keep the rate of COVID transmission as low as possible we do need to try to keep the numbers of children in school as low as possible.

We understand that you may be eligible for a place, but if your child can stay at home then we are asking you to keep them there.

We are asking parents to exhaust all other options before contacting school **and** if either parent is working from home, then please keep your child at home with you if at all possible.

Due to current numbers, and in the spirit of the lockdown and reducing transmission, any new places will be considered for 'emergency and safeguarding reasons' or where there is an 'overwhelming and compelling reason' to further increase the numbers in school.

Thank you for your support in this.



I want to thank all parents for your amazing support as we rolled out our remote learning through the Tapestry and Seesaw apps. We understand that this has been challenging for some families, having to set up virtual learning environments in their own homes. We have been so very grateful for the support that you have offered your children in helping them to access their learning this way.

As we complete the third week of lockdown there has been lots of wonderful work going onto the Seesaw and Tapestry apps - which we have really enjoyed reading and responding too. A huge thankyou to the children for the exceptional way in which they have completed the remote learning and returned this promptly to their teachers - please keep this amazing effort up. We are so proud of you all !

This week we have introduced Teams sessions to all pupils in school. This has given children an opportunity to connect with their class teacher and peers even though they may be at home. There has been an overwhelming uptake to these sessions and the children have engaged and participated extremely well.

Next week, we will increase the Teams sessions to two weekly sessions. Details of the Teams sessions will be on the class remote learning plans, available on the school website, and links will be sent via parentmail.

All the teachers and support staff in school are really enjoying seeing how the children are progressing through the work that the children are submitting. Teachers will continue to keep in touch through the Tapestry and Seesaw offering feedback and support. But as always please email or ring school if you need any further support.

ACCESSING MICROSOFT TEAMS VIA A GAMES CONSOLE

Below is a link to a guide on how to access websites and Microsoft Teams via a games console, which you may find useful.

Modern day consoles, such as the PlayStation 4 and Xbox One come with internet browsers pre-installed.

These browsers enable you to access remote learning sites and Microsoft Teams.

Please [click here](#) to find instructions on how to use these devices.



READING AT HOME

*I don't read to pass time...
... I make time for reading*



Weekend Reading

It's really important that your child continues reading regularly, not only to improve their understanding but also **for fun!**

There are now a wide range of eBooks that class teachers are promoting on Oxford Owls and Epickids.

Please use your class login to access these and look out for the recommended book of the week !

Reading aloud with your child, just **10 minutes** a day, is one of the best ways to provide learning tools for life



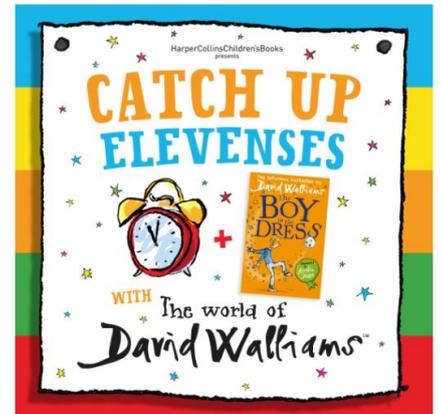
Why choose eBooks?

- Digital reading has been shown to help encourage young people in reading, particularly boys.
- eBooks can be read on any device, from PCs to iPads, Kindles and iPod Touches.

Other resources:

In addition there are sites where you can listen to stories from well known authors. David Walliams is currently reading one of his novels and releases the next chapter at 11am each week day with catch up time at weekends.

[Click here to take you to the site](#) and start listening!



PARENTS EVENING

We would usually host the Spring Term Parents' Evening at the end of this half term. However due to the current situation we feel it would be more beneficial to postpone these until next half term, when we hopefully can see the return of all pupils to school. I will update parents once we know more about the Government announcement and guidance for the full reopening of schools.

LINKS WITH ST MARY'S CHURCH AND WORSHIP IN SCHOOL:

It seems a long time ago but a huge well done and thank you to Year 5 for hosting a virtual Carol Service. The pupils performed exceptionally well in what was a very unusual situation.

We look forward to being able to resume our church services in St Mary's Church with a live congregation, as soon as it is safe to do so.

We are delighted to be able to continue working with Rev Katy and her team as the new incumbent of St Mary's Church.

Worship is still forming a regular part of the school day. The Groundbreakers Team are recording a weekly worship for us here in school and these are posted onto class pages every Monday for pupils at home to enjoy. In addition the Diocese are also providing weekly worship materials and these are posted on our twitter account each week.

We look forward to returning to whole school collective worship and our much missed singing as soon as possible.

IF YOUR CHILD OR SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE COVID 19

If your child is attending school or if they are at home and you are notified of a positive result for COVID-19 please email info@stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk

Contact tracing, for children not attending school, will be completed by NHS Test and Trace.

LOOKING AHEAD TO VACCINATIONS

The Local Authority have asked schools to share the following leaflet regarding vaccinations as an easy read leaflet:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/951000/PHE_11843_Covid-19_Easy-read_leaflet.pdf

St Mary's Church



England Primary School

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HEADTEACHER: Mrs P A Hartley BEd (Hons), NPQH

DEPUTY HEAD: Mrs J Hardman BSc (Hons), QTS, NPQH

SCHOOL WEBSITE:

Please log on to find current information about school. For latest updates and news you can also follow St Mary's School on twitter at: www.twitter.com/stmarysce

Website: www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:



UP TO DATE DETAILS:

Please remember to keep the office informed of any changes in medical conditions, emergency contact numbers and email addresses via the school email address

info@stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk or in writing

150 Club:

The next draw will be on Friday 29th January.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

P.A Hartley

Headteacher