

Stroud Valley Community School Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers

Many congratulations on surviving a half term of home schooling. We really do appreciate and understand how difficult and challenging these times are.

The most important message from us is:

be kind to yourselves.

Did you know that when you receive a reward or hear kind words your brain releases a neurotransmitter called dopamine?

Dopamine is a chemical that causes a rush of pleasure and happiness.

This happens in adults brains as well as children's brains, which is why, however difficult, being positive really does make a difference.

This works for us too.

So, thank you for sticking with us this week while we have been working hard to get Teams and online communication with all our children sorted out. It hasn't been an easy journey! However, when we got there it was well worth the effort seeing the faces of the children we miss. This building is not the same without the buzz created by everyone that should be in it. As we become more confident with Teams and glitches in configurations of technical data behind the scenes gets ironed out, we aim to use it increasingly more to keep all of us connected and support the much missed social interactions.

Next term, we will be working towards opening our school to welcome back all of our children in line with government guidelines.

Mrs Jowers invited all children to draw a bird (check out the YouTube link on our website) and post it in the red post box in the main entrance. These will be used to create a fabulous display that all our children who took part will have created and for everyone to enjoy.

Our next whole school project will be linked to:



Bottle Moments

www.bottlemoments.com/covid-19-kids



Please do have a look at this wonderful website; you will be able to find out more details.

A bottle moment is the one thing you'd most like to do again when everything is better and back to normal. It could be a friend you'd most like to see, a place you'd most like to go, a hobby you'd most like to get back to, or simply getting a hug from someone special. More details will be in the next newsletter.

THANK YOU!



We'd like to say a huge thank you to Monica McRiner a Stroud resident who lives close to our school. We received a phone call during lockdown from her wishing to donate £500 to support children that are learning at home without a tablet or laptop. We have purchased a laptop computer which is already being used by a family in need.

Thank You Monica for your kindness - it was lovely to meet you and hope very soon to give you a tour of our school.
From all of us at Stroud Valley School



12th February 2021
School and Governor
Contact
(01453 764400)
Parentline Plus Helpline
(0808 800 2222)
School Nurse Contact
(0300 421 8959)
www.stroudvalleyschool.co.uk

Dates for your diary

	February
22nd	INSET DAY
	June
9th	Y6 Visits to Archway

COVID-19—Half Term

Please help to keep everybody safe by following the government guidelines all the time including during half term.

We appreciate that these are difficult times for everyone. The more people that adhere to the Covid safe behaviours the better it will be for everyone.

If your child is in school, please wear a mask when dropping off and collecting.

The medical advice is clear you must self-isolate if you have coronavirus symptoms or live in the same household as somebody who does.



FULL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

This week Miss Sleep updated us all on the work that teachers have been doing to ensure that every child has access to Microsoft Teams to allow for face to face virtual interaction for classes. Everybody is very keen to provide the children with opportunities to take part in sessions with their teachers and it was great to hear that this is starting. OfSTED advises that children have a mixed offer of learning opportunities and the school is following this advice. We discussed some of the frustrations and barriers with the technology and are immensely grateful to the tenacity of those involved who have been working to making this happen.

Miss Sleep emphasised the school's primary aim is to ensure that the children are ok and reiterated that the main purpose of the Teams sessions is to support children's mental health and wellbeing. The school know how hard this is for children (and those attempting to teach them at home!) and they are very keen to help children feel less isolated and connected with their teacher and classmates. They are confident that they can help children catch up with learning when they get back to school. The staff have been teaching every day but they are very keen to see those children who aren't in school.

They miss them too!

The governors have been updating the school's complaints procedure and within this have been reviewing how the school communicates with parents. The outcome of this review will be taken to the next full governors meeting. Watch this space for updates.

We discussed the website and recent updates which enable parents to look at the curriculum and skills that children will develop over the school year.

Finally, we just wanted to acknowledge how difficult this lockdown has been for many people. The last 11 months have been exceptionally challenging and having children at home once again may, at times, feel unmanageable. Platitudes such as "You've got this!" don't help when you are in a work zoom call, have a toddler climbing on your lap and a child refusing to do the work set as you aren't their teacher and this isn't how they do it at school... Thank you to everyone supporting the children of SVCS. And whilst there will definitely be times when none of us feel like we've "got this", it feels good to know that we will soon see the blossom on our trees and the sun setting across our Stroud Hills a little later every day.

The full governing body will be meeting again in April.

PARKING -reminder

We would like to remind parents and carers NOT to park outside school on the yellow lines when dropping off/collecting your children. Please do not park across any private property or driveways.

The council have reassured us that those parents that have children in school, are still able to use the current Parliament Street car parking permits until the new ones are issued.