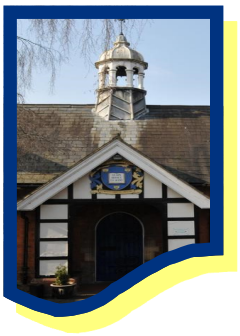
Stratford-upon-Avon Primary 'Lockdown News'



22nd January 2021

Stratford-upon-Avon Primary School, Broad Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. CV37 6HN.
Tel: 01789 293201. Email: admin2042@welearn365.com

Reminders: If you need to contact the school please email admin2042@welearn365.com as the telephones can not always be manned.

During the period of national lockdown, we will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers only ***however, parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home when they can.***

News from The Executive Head's Desk

Well we are half way through Spring Term One already and once again the school term is different to what we imagined. However, I have been incredibly proud of the staff, children and parents who have shown incredible resilience, accepted the situation and adapted quickly to ensure we can continue to teach our children. I was able to call into school yesterday and see some of the children who were in their classrooms (from a distance naturally). Year 6 had been completing an iceberg experiment linked to their Frozen Kingdom topic. Boxes of water with ice in were positioned in various different places; on radiators, in the fridge, in the playground, on a table in the centre of the room! The children were measuring and recording temperatures, observing change and linking it to climate change. What was exciting to hear from Mrs McCormack was that they were communicating with the children who are at home and gaining views from everyone. The staff always amaze me with how quickly they adapt and pick up new ways to use technology. Mrs M told me she had learnt how to use breakout rooms in Teams and in a fraction lesson sent the children off to complete tasks not only in school but at home and was able to visit those breakout rooms to support the children and hear ideas. Every time I speak with someone they have moved on further from where we were last year and whilst to begin with they are daunted by changes they step up, learn and carry on. It might not always work how we want it to – technology is like that but it would appear we are all persevering and educating ourselves. Education brings change. What a wonderful thought.

I also enjoyed joining in Reception's phonic lesson this week. The children have learnt how to use the unmute button and the 'put up your hand' symbol. All of these things need to be taught and the majority of children are confidently accessing our live lessons. Mrs Slater calmly ran through her phonic lesson; recapping sounds, teaching digraphs, checking the children's understanding which included those back in the classroom with Mrs Buchanan and practising their letter formation. Great to see the children so engaged.

During lockdown we do all have to remember to keep our spirits calm and look after the mental health and well-being of our children. The following link is a good link for you as parents and carers to know how to support your children with mental health. There is a document or a short video presentation. There is also a free Safeguarding Children 10 Top Tips resource for you to use as well. https://ssscpd.co.uk/education/parentsandguardians/child-mental-health-10-tips-for-parents/-/pj==

Don't forget to take time out for yourself too. Find a space and sit quietly for 5 minutes emptying your mind, listening to the world around you and taking deep breaths. Teaching your own child is not easy, believe me the majority of teachers have had to do it and find it very frustrating. When they say they can't do something, get them to read out to you what it is they have to do or you read it out. Repeating something embeds in the mind. Ask open questions such as 'What do you think the first thing you have to do is? What does that word mean?' Act as if you don't know the answer and get them to try and teach you. Most of all if you feel yourself getting frustrated, walk away and do something different and come back to it later.

Last week Mr Gardner left Stratford Primary School. His role was very varied; supporting children in the classroom, teaching forest school, sports coach, running after school clubs and midday supervisor. We are very grateful for the time and effort Mr Gardner has given the children of Stratford Primary School and we all want to say thank you and wish him well on his next adventure.

Have a good weekend everyone. Remember 'Hands, Face, Space' and please if you are asked to self-isolate do it. It is the way to break the transmission of the virus so we can eventually return to our normal routines.

'You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think.' AA Milne

Mrs Humphriss

All students can access Microsoft Office (PowerPoint, Word, etc) for free on any device with their log-in linked to their Stratford Primary School 'welearn' account. Their username is their school email address (initial.surname@welearn365.com) and their password is the same as their password for Teams.

Safeguarding - TikTok Strengthening Privacy

On 13/1/21 TikTok announced they would be making additional improvements to the app, specifically for younger users. All users who have registered as aged between 13-15 will now have their accounts set to 'private' by default, allowing children to make an informed choice about who they are sharing with. This is a good decision by TikTok, but fundamentally relies on the user indicating their correct date of birth at sign-up. As we all know, there are many users below the age of 13 that are using TikTok and all of these will have had to lie about their age in order to create an account, so whilst it is a step in the right direction, and certainly better than all the other popular apps out there, it still isn't enough. The link below gives you as a parent further information to support your children. Remember social media has strict age restrictions and we should be ensuring that all primary age children follow this and do not use social media sites that are too old for them.

https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-us/strengthening-privacy-and-safety-for-youth

Home and School Learning

Online Parent Workshop

This event:

'Safe Home, Happy Home'

by Warwickshire Children and Families, is available to book via Eventbrite.

Keyworker Parents/Carers

Please ensure you arrive at school in the morning at drop off time and not earlier. Do NOT leave children unattended on the school grounds before school.

January Dream Draw Winners

Well done to this month's winners!

1st Prize £41.70 - Anna Marinovic

2nd prize £21.85 - Susan Clewer

3rd prize £6.95 - Emma Broughton

Please email fospschool@gmail.com or message Denise Wood on 07711 768087 if you are interested in signing up for any of the remaining draws.