

# St Paul's C of E Junior School

Dear all,

A wise man once said ...."With full appreciation, count your blessings no matter how small they might seem..." and we have been counting ours this week. Here are just some of the things we are grateful for:

- Every one of our 383 fabulous pupils;
- Their parents and wider families;
- Our incredible colleagues on the skeleton crew who are opening school each day for keyworker children;
- Our brilliant staff team. Although most are not permitted to be in school during the closure, all are beavering away on planning for the coming weeks and on keeping the school afloat;
- The governors who are supporting and encouraging us every step of the way through these difficult times;
- Our PTA who may have had all of their upcoming events cancelled, but will not let that stop them from fundraising when things get back to normal;
- The fact that we are slowly moving towards the day when it will be safe for the school to reopen once more - what a joyous day that will be;
- Chocolate!



Look at what was delivered to school on Monday! A box of chocolate, for the handful of staff that have made up our skeleton crew these last two weeks. It was such a thoughtful gift and enough to keep the team going for days. It was exactly what the Doctor ordered! Mrs Walker, you are a star!

All pupils should be logging into the Learning Platform regularly as each teacher is messaging their class and available to give advice or guidance about work packs. It is a safe online space in which to message teachers, friends and classmates. If your child experiences a problem logging in, please send a message to our ICT technician, Mrs Brook, who will be only too happy to help [IT\\_Tech@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:IT_Tech@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk)



If you have yet to explore the new School Closure area of our website, it contains links to a range of resources we've come across that might help you to keep the children busy when they are not working on their packs [https://www.stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk/website/school\\_closure/464188](https://www.stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk/website/school_closure/464188)

You will have seen in last week's Newsletter that Miss Richardson recently welcomed her new daughter, Annalise, into the world and that both mother and baby are doing well. Miss Richardson has asked me to pass on her thanks for the beautiful flowers and good wishes she received from the children, parents and staff - they were a lovely surprise. We cheekily asked that in return we get another photo of the newest member of our school family as she is such a gorgeous addition!



Take care,  
Mrs Taylor - Headteacher

### **Accessing Support**

Many people, including lots of our families, are being affected by workplace closures and now face weeks of financial uncertainty. If you think we may be able to help you in accessing support, email us at [admin@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk). and we will do whatever we can. For any of our families in crisis, who do not have the financial means to purchase food, we are able to make a digital referral to the Wokingham Food Bank. They are not able to provide food parcels for people who are struggling to buy what they need in the shops due to stock shortages or for people who are self-isolating but can afford to pay for food.

Other support available is the Wokingham Borough Community Hub. It has been set up to provide food, toiletries and other essentials to people in Wokingham who need them. This joint venture is being run by WBC and local charities, churches and volunteers (including our very own Emily and her dad), to provide a community wide response to support vulnerable people during the Covid-19 crisis.

The hub will be providing food parcels and other essentials to families in need and anyone in the borough who is vulnerable, isolated or elderly. If you need support, contact Citizen's Advice Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm on 0300 330 1189 (entering 0118 978 7258 if prompted).



You can always visit their website and complete the online form <http://citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk/coronavirus/>.

The Hub also needs donations and if you are able to spare extra food, toiletries and other essentials, you can drop them off at the no contact drop off centre at St Crispin's Leisure Centre, London Road. Other drop off points will open soon and for the latest information, check the Hub Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/wokinghamcommunityhub/>

## Our amazing NHS



We are humbled at the bravery, hard work and dedication of NHS staff who are doing the most amazing job of caring for us and our loved ones in incredibly difficult and often harrowing circumstances. Desperate to find something we could do to help and support them, we gathered up anything in school that might be remotely helpful to hospital workers in terms of PPE. We then sent out a plea to the schools in our cluster, inviting them to join us.

We now have almost 1200 pairs of vinyl gloves, plastic aprons, 7 masks (newly strung with replacement elastic) and 6 pairs of safety glasses. There is still some more kit to come from St Crispin's as Mr Blyth has asked the lab technicians to collect up the equipment from the labs to add to the collection so far. We will be sending everything off to the Royal Berks with the good wishes of the pupils, staff and parents of St Paul's, Walter Infants and St Crispin's.

## Young People's Mental Health - Important Guidance for Parents and Carers

Everyone is being made aware of the physical effects of the Coronavirus and what we should look out for if symptoms arise. However, the mental effects of the virus itself are not yet known nor are we able to assess the effects of the fear generated by potential contamination. Social distancing and isolation for weeks will undoubtedly affect our children and young people and the government have issued some excellent guidance for parents on how to support their mental wellbeing.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

## I'm bored!

Children, how many times have you said this over the last two weeks? Everyone feels bored from time to time but generally this is in situations that are out of our control e.g. stuck in an airport lounge, waiting for a delayed flight. Groaning to your parents about being bored is a complete waste of time and energy. So, why not put your efforts into doing something worthwhile instead?

Why don't you:

Go for a kick about in the garden

Dance

Tidy your bedroom

Organize your wardrobe so that everything is hung/folded neatly

Offer to lay the table, match up socks or put away laundry

Watch a You Tube film of how to clean your shoes properly and then have a go yourself. You could even offer to clean a pair of shoes for someone else!

Learn how to make an origami dog <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWVppdfYOx8>

If you are allowed to use the kettle, make someone a nice cup of tea

Read to a younger sibling

Get out all of the board games in your house, check they have all of their pieces, choose your favourite and then invite a family member to join you for a game.



When you can control what it is that you could do and still you complain that you are bored, you are making a choice, but it doesn't have to be that way at all!

## Competition – Signs of Spring

We have started to receive entries for our signs of Spring Competition. Please do keep them coming in! The teachers have been invited to enter as well and I am sure that I overheard Mr Millen and Mr Day discussing how to take the best close-ups as they were leaving school yesterday. I am looking forward to receiving their entries.

## National Theatre at Home (a night out/night in for parents)

From 2nd April, a number of productions previously screened in cinemas globally as a part of National Theatre Live will be made available to watch via the National Theatre's YouTube channel.

The first production broadcast will be Richard Bean's One Man Two Guvnors featuring a Tony Award-winning performance from James Corden.

Each production will be free and screened live every Thursday at 7pm. It will then be available on demand for seven days. Alongside the streamed productions, there will be accompanying interactive content such as Q&As with cast and creative teams and post-stream talks.

Upcoming productions are:

- Jane Eyre - April 9th
- Treasure Island - April 16th
- Twelfth Night – April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Further titles are to be announced.

## Universal Studios (a night out/night in for all of the family)

Universal are streaming full-length musicals every Friday at 7pm for free. After streaming, they will be available for a further 48 hours so that they can be viewed over the weekend. Today's musical is Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. To find out more go to <https://www.youtube.com/theshowsmustgoon>

## Message from Miss Gilder

I hope you're all well.

I am emailing you all today to let you know about a fun singing activity that you can do every morning - it is called Wake up and Sing. They are singing videos recorded by Maestros (who are the same people who teach extra music lessons at school) which will be uploaded every morning.

This might be a fun activity for you to do on your own or with your family in the morning to start your day off. Please make sure you ask your parents or carers before you click the link and go onto You Tube. All you need to do is to follow this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1TRDuZ0K6E&list=PLbLqprABKn85gaQvSCNuC6u7kNgb6uewp>.

Hope you enjoy it,  
Miss Gilder



## Tips, advice, guides and resources to help keep your child safe online

As schools are now closed and pupils are working at home, parents and carers can play a key role in teaching children to stay safe online. This may sound daunting but you don't need to be an expert as the UK Safer Internet Centre has lots of advice and resources to support you as you support your child in safely navigating their digital world. <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

### And finally.....

Hi everyone,

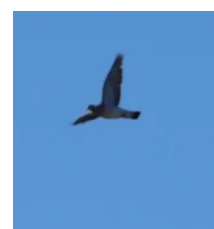
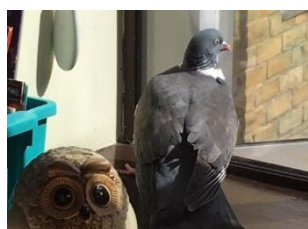
We are still doing the things that you are doing, practising our handwriting, focusing on English and Maths in our work packs, having a daily PE lesson. It has been a bit cooler weather wise and we haven't spent quite as much time outside as we did last week.

It has been much quieter around here and, on some days, there has been just a handful of us. Today, there were only 3 pupils and 3 teachers! Our work this week has included attending online drawing workshops and learning about light and the different part of the eye in Science. Our West Oak cards have now been delivered and we have been busy making rainbows and posters to hang on the fence at the front of school.



We are now on page 254 of *The Land of Roar* by Jenny McLachlan. The adventure is really hotting up and we have found Grandad. The only problem is that the villainous scarecrow, Croaky, and his army are in hot pursuit!

This afternoon, we had an unexpected visitor to school - one of a feathered variety. Thanks to Miss Lavrich's quick thinking, she made light work of assisting our visitor to leave the premises.



Anyway, we are signing off now as we are going to round off our busy week with a treat of Film Time in the hall. Remember to check out the learning platform as the teachers sent messages to the children in their classes.

More news after the Easter Holiday - bye for now!

Fatima, Grace, Amir, Erfan, Cayden, Freya, Tom, Dylan and Erin, Mr Day, Miss Lavrich, Mr Millen and Mrs Taylor.