



STIVICHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL
tel: 024 7641 9555
email: school@stivichall.coventry.sch.uk
website: www.stivichallprimary.org



SUPPORTING
CONNECTING
INFLUENCING



22nd January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope everyone has had a good week. Both children and staff in school have settled into their new routine again and I hope that those parents and children working from home have been able to do the same. Staff members have enjoyed talking with many of the children working remotely via teams/zoom meetings this week and/or catching up with parents by telephone. By the end of next week, all children working remotely will have had this opportunity which is proving invaluable. We are now midway through this half-term and these regular methods of communication will continue as we move through this current lockdown.

We are still receiving requests for places on a daily basis, meaning numbers are still rising. Parents should by now have been in touch with us if they require key worker places and we are hoping that the numbers will plateau out. We have had very few key worker parents respond to our recent requests to review the need to send or limit the days their child(ren) attend school and our numbers still remain at over 200 pupils with places and our current bubbles are at maximum capacity.

With this in mind, if you work a regular pattern which means there are days when your child will not need to be in school, then please let us know in advance. Staffing levels and registers are drawn up at the end of the day on Thursday and finalised early on Friday morning, to ensure that the correct levels of safeguarding are maintained. Your assistance in providing this information as early as possible is very much appreciated. If your working pattern is irregular and likely to change, please just keep your children at home whenever you can and keep in regular contact with the office with any updates. This is NOT the case for vulnerable children, they should be in school every day.

Please remember that Coventry City Council are offering Lateral Flow Testing for anyone who is not currently showing any COVID symptoms. People are encouraged to attend these testing centres in the fight to contain the transmission of the virus. Please click [here](#) for details on the location and opening times. **You should not attend these centres if you are displaying any symptoms, please book a test via the NHS [website](#).**

We are all working hard to maintain the blended learning for all pupils whether in school or at home. As we continue to live in a time of uncertainty and anxiety, I wanted to reassure you that all of our school staff are here to help in whatever way we can.

The school website section, 'Mental Health and Wellbeing' has a collection of resources and ideas to support children and their families during this time, as well as a link to the Recovery and Wellbeing Academy which offers courses via Zoom for those aged over 18, which parents may find helpful and supportive.

Free SIM cards - bandwidth issues

A reminder to all families that we have a supply of free SIM cards in school. If you are struggling with bandwidth usage at home and connecting multiple devices to your Wi-Fi simultaneously, we may be able to help. A free SIM card can be used in devices such as mobile phones or compatible tablets, reducing bandwidth usage and allowing other devices to connect to your home Wi-Fi. When using the free SIM card, please ensure you are connected to the mobile network as opposed to the Wi-Fi. Please contact the school office if you are interested in this offer.

Maths - recall of number facts

To try to help maintain progress and momentum in learning essential number facts, teachers will be setting an occasional Knights of the Times Table activity on Seesaw. Please note that this is for children's practice and that, although no badges can be awarded at this time, pupils are able to move on to their next badge when they and their parents feel that they are ready. There are a wealth of ideas and website links in the maths area of Home Learning on the school website and the badge tests themselves are there if children want to practise these:

<https://www.stivichallprimary.org/page/?title=Stivichall+Knights+of+the+Times+Tables&pid=97>

When children are back in school, we will be able to continue as normal, starting with the challenge that they were working on prior to Lockdown. Live Mathletics is another great way to practise speedy fact recall - there are lot of fun ways to keep making progress with your mental maths - 'a passport for life'.

Coventry SEND Service

SEMhL (Social Emotional Mental Health and Learning) are offering the following webinars which are open to parents of children with SEND. The courses that are currently available are:

[Speech and language.](#)

[Improving your child's reading comprehension](#)

[ASD and ADHD,](#)

[Maths](#)

[ADHD and ODD](#)

Achievements Outside School

It is always lovely to hear news of our pupils' achievements outside of school as well as sharing successes within school, so please do let us know of any you wish to share.

We reported at the end of last term that Annabelle in class 1S was embarking on her biggest challenge to date of running/scooting/cycling 100k in a month. She has surpassed even her own challenge by completing it 4 days ahead of schedule and raising an incredible amount of over £1400 for Kaiden's Fight charity. If you add this fantastic amount to Annabelle's other fundraising events, she has now raised over £2,000 since last year when she set herself the challenge at the start of the first lockdown. A marvellous and inspiring achievement – well done Annabelle.

You can find out more about her challenge and fundraising by clicking [here](#).

Japanese Peace Garden

I hope that you are all still managing to get your daily dose of exercise. If you decide to visit the War Memorial Park then please do go and take a look at the Japanese Peace Garden which is looking beautiful. There is still a little bit of work to be completed as well as planting of some cherry trees but it really is a peaceful place to spend a few minutes and admire all the hard work and input Stivichall pupils have had in this project. Pictures have been uploaded to Twitter for you to take a look.

The official grand opening of the Japanese Peace Garden and the Japan Arts Exhibition has been rescheduled from 26th March to Friday, 2nd July.

Coventry Peace Poetry Competition

In November, a number of children in school wrote a poem on the theme of 'neighbourliness' which were submitted to the Coventry Peace Poetry competition. This week we received the exciting news that 17 of our children have had their poem published in an e-book which is available to download.

A paperback book has also been published containing all of the shortlisted poems and 9 of our children's poems appear in this book. This a great achievement and we are extremely proud of them.

In addition, one of the judges is an estate agent in Radford and has requested permission to display a copy of the poem written by Joey B, year 5, in his shop window as his poem describes the neighbourhood so beautifully. You can view a copy of the e-book by following this link:

<http://coventrycityofpeace.uk/books/AllPeacePoems2020-21.pdf>

In addition a paperback and ebook containing the shortlisted poems are also available in the online store at <https://covpeacepoem.uk/store>.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Ferguson

Mrs K Ferguson

Head Teacher

parle2199/yg