



Sutton in Craven C.E (V.C) Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs O Gibbons

Main Street, Sutton in Craven, Keighley, BD20 7JS

Tel: 01535 632181

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Date: 29.01.2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your family are all safe and well as we complete our fourth week of the half term. I know that this is an exceptionally difficult time for all of you and for your children. Times are tough and our mental health is taking a battering. As parents and carers, we are feeling the strain, we are feeling the guilt between juggling our own jobs and the children's home learning and all whilst trying to survive a global pandemic.

It's ok if you are having a wobble.
Some days we will be on good form
And on others we won't.
The secret is being kind to yourself
As you dance between the two.
We are all just muddling through
The best we can!

Remote Learning

As we have completed three full weeks of home learning, we are settling into a routine, although this does not diminish the fact that it still remains tricky in different ways. We continue to reflect, monitor and listen to feedback. The teachers are still setting learning in line with the National Curriculum. We will continue to find ways in which to maintain engagement and excitement for the children.

We know it can be tough for children to keep themselves motivated but are extremely pleased with how most of our children are managing to learn at home. I have sent out a record amount of Headteacher awards this week to reflect this mammoth effort from our children.

Support with remote learning

We want to do all we can to support your child to continue to learn and make progress. If you are having difficulty with devices, please do let us know. We have a limited number of laptops we can loan out. If you are struggling for broadband and are in a BT hotspot we also have free WIFI to offer if that helps. We also have free data in the form of SIM cards and these are through Vodafone. We are here to help – please let us know.





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Reading Planet

This week we launched our new online reading library for the children. Children will be assigned books to read every Wednesday. Assigned books will remain in your child's/ children's library for them to continue to read if they wish. There will be an allocated number of books assigned each week to mirror your child's reading progress, attainment and/or phonic phase.

We hope you enjoy sharing these books with your children and look forward to talking to children about them when we return. If you have any questions or queries, please get in touch with school.

Children's Mental Health Week 1st – 7th February 2021

From 1-7 February 2021, we're taking part in Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week.

This year's theme is Express Yourself. We would like all the children to dress to express on Wednesday ready for their virtual teams call. They can dress up in what suits their mood, who they are, what they want to be – to truly EXPRESS THEMSELVES. We cannot wait to see the children all dressed to express.

Place2Be has created activities and resources to help children (and adults) to explore the different ways that they can share their thoughts, feelings and ideas. There are lots of resources on the [Children's Mental Health Week website](#) that you can use with your child at home; including activity ideas, [tips for parents and carers](#), and an [online assembly](#) which will be available from Monday 1 February.

Non-screen day

In order to ensure there is a balance of learning and enrichment across the week, we will be introducing a 'non screen' day weekly. Our non-screen day will be **WEDNESDAY**. Every Wednesday there will be a list of non-screen activities placed in your child's 'Mental Well-being' folder on their class notebook. This is a whole school initiative and so families with more than one child can complete the activities together as a family. We hope that this will give children and families a chance to reboot, to enjoy different learning and enrichment opportunities.

As staff, we really miss seeing the children each day. It would be fantastic if you could upload some photos or messages of how the children enjoyed these non-screen activities to the class notebook. We would like to celebrate this learning with you. Please share what you get up to if you get the chance.





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The daily virtual registration with school will continue on non-screen days.

Daily Mental Health and Well being

We will also be posting a daily well-being activity or task to support your child's/children's mental help. This can be done at any time during the day and is optional. We want to support our children as best we can during this difficult time. You will find this optional daily task in the mental well-being folder on class notebook.

Returning to school

The Prime Minister announced this week that he hopes schools will resume face-to-face learning from Monday 8th March. He also hopes to give us at least two weeks' notice to prepare for a return to school. As you know, we have remained open during this third lock down to support the children of key workers and children who are vulnerable. I will inform parents and carers as soon as I know more information about a return to school date.

A final note

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you and well done. You are getting through this dreadful time. Your children are engaging with home learning, your children are participating in the daily call – thank you, you have got this!

We will continue to have high expectations of all our children and we have set a lot of learning each day. Please, all we ask is that you do your best; your best is good enough. If your best is phonics, reading and times tables then that is okay. If you want to do all the work that is, equally okay. What is not okay is that you sit for hours as a family being stressed and upset. We become stressed and upset because we want to do what is best for our children, as staff we are parents as well and share this frustration and this guilt. This is not what we want for you; it is certainly not, what we want for your children. Everyone's circumstance is different, we all deal with situations differently, and we appreciate all that you can do for your child/children. Remember your best is good enough.

We are here for you, although we are closed to most children, we are here to help and support in whatever way we can, a phone call, an email, a teams meeting - all with a cup of tea! We are here for you.

I end this letter with our school prayer.





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With very best wishes,

Orla Gibbons

Mrs Orla Gibbons

