

# Batheaston Church School



Dream...Aspire...Achieve

## Weekly Newsletter - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are well and are managing to cope during our third nationwide lockdown. The news of the vaccine is promising and the call for prioritising teachers and support staff is growing stronger so we have all our fingers crossed this will be the case and that we will be able to open back up to all pupils soon.

Looking through TEAMs this week, I am always amazed at the effort your children are making with their learning. Much of this is down to their own determination and enthusiasm but when this is not the case, we know the encouragement and strength comes from you as parents and we cannot thank you enough for your support. Home schooling is very much a partnership between school and home, and I know that you are all doing the best you can, supporting your child while juggling all other responsibilities. Here at school, we are beginning to settle down into some sort of routine. Our support staff have been amazing, looking after our keyworker children and supporting them with their learning online and in school. They are in constant communication with the teachers remotely and through live planning documents to make sure that all our children are receiving the same education at home and in school.

Our numbers of children attending are higher than last time so we are having to rethink the support and be more cautious around safety, but I know we will get ourselves back into a routine shortly. Please can I ask, for the safety of the children and staff working in school, that you only request a keyworker place, if your work is critical to the response of the Corona Virus outbreak. Otherwise, the advice remains to stay at home. More information and guidance can be found on critical keyworkers using the following link.

[Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/critical-workers-and-vulnerable-children-who-can-access-schools-or-educational-settings)

### Live Lessons

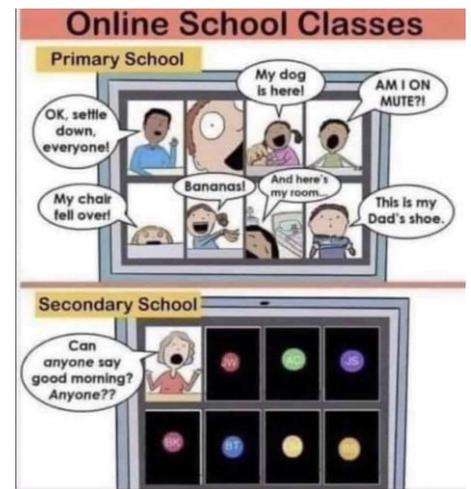
We have been contacted by parents in a variety of different ways requesting or asking when our live lessons will start. We completely understand that many of you are juggling home schooling as well as working from home and it will be a great help if you can sit your child at a screen to watch the teacher teach and support their learning. We have responded to this request and the teachers will be providing more online lessons next week. However, I am keen to point out that we have also received feedback from other parents requesting us to limit our live sessions due to a lack of available devices in the homes, siblings needing the laptop at different times and poor internet quality. Therefore, we realise that we are not going to please everyone and will make all our live sessions optional and provide work that can be done without attending the live session. We will also make sure that as a school we will not clash our live sessions with other classes. An interesting document was produced earlier this week by OFSTED which I have shared the link below. Section 6 caught my eye as I think many schools believe this:

Some think that a live lesson is the 'gold standard' of remote education. This isn't necessarily the case. Live lessons have a lot of advantages. They can make curriculum alignment easier, and can keep pupils' attention, not least as the teacher has more control over the learning environment. But live lessons are not always more effective than asynchronous approaches."

[What's working well in remote education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Therefore, we will continue to use a blended approach that takes on both points of view from the feedback we have received and encompasses a combination of both live, pre-recorded, and external resources.

This cartoon made me chuckle when I saw this on social media. After joining one class for their live session this week and then speaking to my 18-year-old daughter who was adamant she was not switching her camera on, I felt it summed up online learning beautifully!



We love interacting with the children and we will do our very best to provide our children the best that we can and to try and support you as parents at home.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and look forward to speaking to some of you next week

**Sally x**

### Learning at home.

The teachers love seeing the learning that is taking place in homes around Batheaston and often share your pictures on our Twitter feed. Having scrolled through TEAMS throughout the week to see how well you are all doing, I love seeing the enjoyment on children's faces as they use objects around the home as manipulatives to support their learning.



Having taught in a junior school for many years, I never really knew what a diorama was. Now I love seeing them made in school and was particularly impressed with this beautiful wintry scene made at home. Well done. Who ever would have thought stock cubes could be used to help children with their maths – brilliant!



Many of our classes are exploring the World this term and learning about different places and different countries, I was in awe of how one child created a scene from a journey to the North Pole in their bedroom. Others used platforms such as minecraft to recreate famous landmarks in London.







We also value the time we are allowed to exercise during this lockdown period and being in school is no exception. With the return of Joe Wicks in the mornings, our critical keyworkers and staff soon joined in, in a bid to keep fit.



We think all our children, whether they are at home or in school with us have done a super job and we are very proud of all their efforts.

Well done everyone!

### **Well done Boys!!**

We love celebrating our children's achievements outside of school and I was delighted to receive an email earlier this week from Jess at Julian House congratulating three of our boys on completing the Santa Hat Challenge. Eli, Danny and Hal, spent all of the festive season wearing their santa hats and raised an impressive £539.00. That is remarkable boys and I know Julian House are very grateful for all your efforts.

**THANK  
YOU!**



**Eli, Hal & Danny**

for wearing santa hats all December and raising an amazing **£539!**  
Your support will mean that Julian House can continue to help vulnerable men and women experiencing homelessness this winter.



Jess also sent through some information which you might be interested in taking part. Please see her message below.

Help people experiencing homelessness and sign up to join **Julian House's Big Bath Sleep-Out: At Home** happening on Friday 5th March. This year, Julian House is challenging you to sleep outside in your garden with your family for one night. In order to raise money to help people experiencing homelessness you could ask your friends and family to sponsor you. The money you raise will help provide a safe shelter for people who don't have a home and are forced to sleep outside every night. For more information and to sign up visit: <http://www.bigbathsleepout.co.uk/>

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I think this is a great idea and something you might like to do as a family and all in the name of a good cause.

### **Headteacher award's**

We think all our children have done a great job this week and have all been superstars. Well done! However with a keen focus on our 5C's and our RECIPE values, teachers have selected the following children who they feel have really stood out this week and have shown these qualities within their learning and with their superb efforts either in school or at home.

#### **Apple Class:**

**Bobby Frayling, Lydia Cottle, Max Brooks**

#### **Cherry Class:**

**Kaya Gurung, Charlie Harwood, Robin Doulia-Mutton**

#### **Willow Class:**

**Albert Winstanley, Hazel Skelton, Santi Chahian**

#### **Elm Class:**

**Jacob Stone, Billy Harris, Logan Peterson**

#### **Hazel Class:**

**Harrison Batchelor-Moore, Cora Chambers, Amber May**

#### **Maple Class:**

**Eli Jones, Archie Skelton, Orla Ashton**

#### **Oak Class:**

**Eva Hume-Smith, Charlie Betts, and Stuey Evans**



# Congratulations

for achieving the Headteacher's award this  
week

WELL DONE!

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021    Signed: *Sally*



(Please feel free to print this out and award to your child)