



The wider re-opening of schools following the Prime Minister's announcement

We are sure you heard the announcement made on Wednesday this week that schools will remain closed to all but vulnerable and critical worker children until the 8th March at the earliest. This means that after half term those children not currently attending school will remain at home, learning remotely.

We do not have any further details on what the wider re-opening will look like and we will provide clarity as soon as we have more information from the government. In the meantime we ask families to remain flexible in their approach to this announcement as the 8th March is the *earliest* date where more children could come back into school and it is *not guaranteed* as it is subject to analysis of the latest transmission and mortality rates.

We know many parents will find this news disappointing; we are disappointed too. We encourage parents to continue to do their best regarding learning from home and do what you can, when you can. Remember that it's ok to work a day or a week behind and upload learning when it's completed. Teachers are notified when learning is submitted and the children will still receive their feedback.

February Half Term

The DfE also announced this week that schools will remain closed during the February half term. Families who are in receipt of Free School Meals will still receive a voucher for this week, however, it will be through a different provider. More information will be sent to you.

Staff News

We are delighted to share that Mrs Vale will be returning to Saxon from her maternity leave on the 1st March. Mrs Vale will have a non-class based role for the remainder of this academic year and will continue in her role as English Subject Leader and a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Mrs Vale's working days will be Tuesday-Friday. We look forward to seeing her in school again soon.

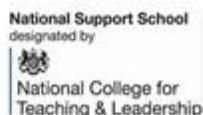
Children's Mental Health Week

Next week, we will be marking 'Children's Mental Health Week' with a range of activities and learning opportunities for pupils both in school and at home. The theme this year is 'Express Yourself'. On Friday 5th February, we would like to invite all children to attend their live registration session wearing something unique or unusual to 'express themselves'. Class teachers will remind pupils of this throughout next week. Children attending school are invited to wear their own clothes on this day.

Over the course of the week, we would like to encourage children to engage in 'screen-free fun' and enjoy mindful activities away from their computer, tablet or console! Attached to this newsletter is a leaflet full of ideas.

We would also like to encourage our community to engage in the 'Wellbeing Wave' initiative. More information can be found in the leaflet attached.

Also attached to the newsletter is a Health & Wellbeing Guide for Parents from Surrey which signposts parents to lots of brilliant resources for the family.



KS2 Epic Reading Challenge!

It's the end of week one of our KS2 reading challenge and we can share the results so far:

	<u>Books Read</u>	<u>Hours of Reading</u>
3P	121	19
3W	60	49
4B	77	7
4L	14	13
5G	289	42
5N	303	62
6D	49	18
6R	40	59

There are some amazing totals here – well done, everyone! Teachers will be reminding children to be reading books appropriate to their age to make sure the competition is fair, particularly on Get Epic where children can choose their own books as well as reading the ones assigned by their teachers. We would also ask parents to ensure the children aren't reading anything too easy but as this challenge is all about getting the children reading, it's great to see how keen they are, no matter what they've read!

We know some of your children will just be getting warmed up and might be near the end of a book and this will count towards next week's total. Teachers shared with their classes this week that any reading a child does even if it's not via Get Epic will count towards their class' total so please make sure your children are letting their teachers know this. Well done everyone – keep reading!

Support for Reception & KS1 Parents and Children's Reading

Mrs Vaughan has put together a short presentation for parents of our youngest children all about Early Reading. The link to this has been shared on Tapestry and Google Classroom for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Please do take the time to have a look if you would like advice on supporting your child at this early stage of their development as readers.

Spelthorne's Creative Workshops for Half Term

Surrey County Council are putting on free workshops for 7-12 year olds throughout half term which focus on developing children's creative skills. See the attached flyer for all the information. Please note, the flyer says the sessions are £3 but they are free of charge.

Attachments

CMHW information
Health & Wellbeing Guide
Half Term Activity Flyer

With our best wishes to you all,

Mrs Davis & Miss Morris
Headteachers