

Wednesday 1st April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well and settling into some sort of home routine. The school website is being updated all the time with new ideas and challenges. There is now more available on different parts of the website. Please have a look at the newly added Well – Being page <http://www.stoswaldsnetherton.com/page/mindfulness/65091> and the shared ideas from other families on our Twitter @stoswaldscep

Children's University Weekly Challenge

Sefton Children's University have created a weekly challenge for children where they can earn an extra 2 credits if they send the proof into us.

Details of the challenges have been added to twitter as well so parents can see if they are following us. Also attached are the 14 challenges we sent out previously to schools.

Virtual Easter Bonnet Competition

As we do each year we will be holding our Easter Bonnet competition this year we have had to change it quite drastically as schools are only open to key worker's children to keep people safe. Therefore, we would still love your child to make an Easter Bonnet as part of their home learning. We would then like you to send in your picture of their Easter Bonnet by email to admin.stoswalds@schools.sefton.gov.uk by 3.15PM on Thursday 2nd April. Judging will take place on 3rd April, the last day of term as normal. If you are happy to share your bonnet, with the child's face hidden under the hat or happy for faces to be shown, we will tweet or <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-doput> on the website.

There will be a first and second prize for each class and a participation prize for every child who enters by sending their photographs in by email.

We do hope you enjoy making the bonnets with your children at home – please do not go to great expense buying a bonnet as the commercial bonnets rarely win the competition! Have fun making your bonnets! * Please note that if you send us your pictures, we will share them on Twitter.

Share your day

Would you like to share your day? If so, what was the favourite part of your child's day?

Favourite bit of learning? Favourite bit of family time? Did you exercise? What did you do?

Please send this to us by email or on our Twitter @stoswaldscep.* Please note that if you send us your pictures, we will share them on Twitter.

Your Home Schedule

Have you or your child devised a schedule for your child? Do you want to share their timetable / daily schedule. Send us your pictures to admin.stoswalds@schools.sefton.gov.uk * Please note that if you send us your pictures, we will share them on Twitter. Thank you

Daily Text Challenge

Each day, school will set a new challenge every day that you can do at home with your child. This will be sent via text message and posted on the school's twitter account. Please send any pictures you have of your child completing their challenge to admin.stoswalds@schools.sefton.gov.uk. * Please note that if you send us your pictures, we will share them on Twitter.

TT Rockstars

We are delighted that so many of you have been using TT Rockstars at home to practise your times tables however, we have been made aware of some children "hacking" other children's accounts.

Someone has accessed other children's accounts and has affected the high scores or personal best scores that these children have worked incredibly hard to achieve. This is very serious as it is a matter of online safety and is deeply upsetting for these children who's scores have been affected.

Please speak to your children to ensure they realise how unkind and serious accessing other people's accounts is. If your child's account has been hacked please contact school and we will arrange for your child's password to be reset.

Keeping Safe Online

On the link below, at **item 6.3** you will find information about keeping you children safe online.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers#resources-and-support>

Poetry Competition

Young budding poets across the Liverpool City Region with time to spare due to the unfortunate Coronavirus outbreak are being asked to get creative and tell us what they are missing through the art of poetry.

Aintree Racecourse has teamed up with Sefton's Borough of Culture year to launch the Grand Poetry Competition with some fantastic prizes on offer for the winners. As the Radox Health Grand National meeting has been cancelled, along with most other sporting events, Sefton as a borough will miss the world-famous racecourse being in the global spotlight.

The poems' subject should be something or someone they love, miss, find amazing or even just help out with. Children should handwrite and decorate a poem (max 200 words) then email Aintree Racecourse a photo/scan of their work to GrandPoetry@thejockeyclub.co.uk. They are also encouraged to post or email what they have written to the subject of the poem as well. Aintree Racecourse has created a page on their website for the project and will display some of the work in an online gallery - www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/aintree/

Entries will be in the 4-8 years-old, 9-12 years-old and 13 years and above categories and winners will win family tickets to Aintree Racecourse's Family Day in October and Liverpool's Day or Grand National Day in 2021. GrandPoetry@thejockeyclub.co.uk

St. Oswald's "Keep Calm and Carry on"

We continue to support as much as we can to those who need it. I am sure you would all like to join me in thanking those selfless, heroes who are working in school, teachers, teaching assistants, office staff, welfare staff, kitchen staff and Mr Dalton and the cleaners. Without their support we could not continue as we are doing for the sake of others.

I would recommend parents contact school if they have any questions, the **WHATSAPP groups seem to be causing unnecessary confusion and upset with misinformation and rumours**. This is irresponsible and thoughtless to those who are then upset or confused by it.

DFE advice re Corona Virus

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Please see the link below for the latest Government advice and guidance on what we can and cannot do.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

That is why the government has given clear guidance on [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#). and the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

It is important to underline that schools, all childcare settings (including early years settings, childminders and providers of childcare for school-age children), colleges and other educational establishments, remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Schools, and all childcare providers, are therefore being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#).

A child friendly presentation is also available to view on the news page of our website and our twitter @stoswaldscep

If you live alone and you have symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for 7 days from when your symptoms started.

If you live with others and you or another member of the household have symptoms of Coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

For anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.

The symptoms are:

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A new, continuous cough

The full stay at home guidance for households with these symptoms can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Christian Values

I thought a particularly relevant Christian Value this week would be courage: **“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”**
Joshua 1:9

Carrying on when things are tough
Overcoming fear
Understanding and facing the current challenge
Risking being out of your comfort zone
Always believing in God’s promises
Going for it
Empowered by encouragement

And Remember:

“And when this is all over
We’ll knock on our friends’ doors
And go to every party
And say ‘I love you’ more.

And when this is all over
Through bad, we will see the good
Because whenever we are together
We’ll appreciate it, as we should.

And when this is all over
And we are no longer in this pain
We’ll know to never take for granted
Those little things again.”

Take care everyone, stay safe and hopefully we will see you all soon. Keep in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Miss E. Murtagh
Headteacher