



Well, 2021 has started with a bang.

We are back to a strange world of lock down and remote learning which we had hoped was in the past, but...

As ever, I am full of admiration for our staff who have stepped up again to develop (and learn!) new skills to help the experiences at home and at school be as similar as possible and still provide a good, well-rounded education. I am very grateful also to the SLT who managed to do this while I finished my isolation period after my husband went down with the virus over Christmas.

Thank you to those of you who have sent in kind words about how we are doing. We will continue to tweak our provision to make it as good as it can be, but I suspect it will never be perfect.

In school provision

We are aware that the definition of Critical workers has changed for this lockdown, but the advice issued yesterday by the government is still very clear **Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can. (p25)**

Please only ask for a school place if you have tried every other option, and please only send you children in on the days you need to. We have around 20% of our children coming currently and more requests coming in. This increases the risk of transmission between children and between children and staff. The more children we have in, the more likely we are to have to send larger numbers of children home if we have a positive test. It also means that staff are stretched to provide in school and remote learning at the same time.

Our community has shown itself to be so supportive over the last few months; this is an area where we can all show our support of the basic message: Stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives.

Data and Wi-Fi

We are aware that for some of you, accessing the remote learning is difficult when you do not have broadband or unlimited data.

Please contact us if this an issue for you, as we are able to access some resources to make this easier for you. We will need to ask for some basic details which are passed onto the DfE.



Microsoft Teams

Thank you for your patience this week as we began remote teaching through Teams. We are pleased to say that most of the technical issues have now been resolved. We will continue to adapt remote teaching to ensure it is as effective as it can possibly be, including making it more interactive for pupils at home. As I'm sure you will understand, the challenge is to balance remote learning with teaching pupils who are in school. We are delighted that so many pupils are attending live teaching sessions and engaging with the sessions. We do need to ask that parents reinforce some basic rules with their children at home:

- 1)** Children should only attend meetings scheduled or started by teachers. They should not try to start meetings themselves. They should leave meetings as soon as the teacher ends the meeting.
- 2)** Children should attend meetings on mute and remain on mute. Teachers will unmute individuals where appropriate.
- 3)** Chat facilities should only be used for questions about work and to alert staff to any technical issues.

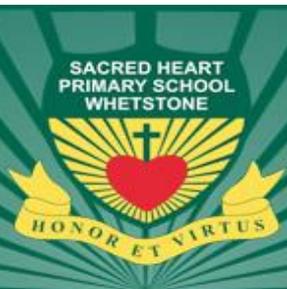
As you will be aware, our remote learning policy states that we have the same high expectations for children's behaviour while learning remotely as we do while in school. While we do not want to reach this point, we may have to apply sanctions if pupils continue to ignore reminders to follow these rules.

School Lunches Lockdown Menu

Please continue to order online with Feeding Hungry Minds - you will have the option to choose either a Meat or Vegetarian lunch.

The menu for Week Commencing **11 January** is below:





MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI
M -Pizza V -Quorn Sausages Frozen toffee yoghurt Fruit/Yoghurt	M –Chicken Curry V - Jacket Potato with Cheese/Baked Beans Sponge Cake Fruit Cheese & crackers	M – Roast Chicken V – Soya Fries Apple Crumble and custard Fruit/yoghurt	M - Burger V - Veggie Burger Jelly Cheese & crackers/fruit	M - Fish V – Cheese/Tomato pasta Pancakes Fruit/Yoghurt

Parents Association

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

A big thank you to Chris Grilli (dad to Ollie 5A) for finishing off the Outdoor Classroom in the Upper Playground by installing extra benches and a little table to accommodate a whole class. Thank you also to Angela Togher (mum to Liam 4J and Kate 1J) who sneaked in over the Christmas holidays to paint them all so that the classroom can hopefully be put to good use soon.

FRUIT TREES

You may have noticed last term that some little trees appeared in our colourful planters in the Upper Playground. A lemon tree was kindly donated by Lewis and Claudia Simmonds (parents to Samuel 6A and Bella 3A) and two other fruit trees were donated by Lina Centanni (grandma to Ella 6A, Mia 5A, Sofia 5A and Alyssa 1A). We look forward to watching them grow and hopefully bear some fruit.



Newsletter



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