

Friday 5th February 2021

Dear Parents,

Congratulations on another week of remote learning!

This morning, Miss.Whitehead had kindly asked the year 5s to attend registration in disguise.....this is how some children were greeted when they arrived at school today! Anything to keep us smiling!



In Aslan class, Friday is normally - 'cake Friday' (one child a week is responsible for baking cake for the class). I think Miss. Scott has been missing it (so have !!) because today she posted a picture of a cake she had baked for cake Friday. Looks delicious Miss. Scott!

### **Community worship this week**

When we are all in school together, we have a Community Worship on a Friday morning. Often children lead these worships by sharing presentations about topics that interest them.

I firmly believe that being confident to speak publically and share ideas that are important to you is a great life skill. Fortunately the children enjoy leading these worships too and are growing beautiful presentation skills. Recently, we have moved to virtual Community Worships and the children have continued to lead presentations....so this week the children have decided that school closure should not stand in our way! Some of our lovely Paddington children have prepared a worship on 'sharks'. This worship has been shared with your family via Google Classroom today, we hope that you enjoy it.

### Some interesting links:

Mrs. Mitchell has continued, throughout this period of school closure, to upload blogs to our school website. She has some great ideas for family activities. The most recent being 'mud' art! Please do take a look!

### Blue Peter Badges

Like you at home, we dedicate Fridays in school to wellbeing and as well as looking at the activities set by the teaching staff on Google Classroom, we have been following some child-led projects. Recently, we have been talking about earning Blue Peter badges. The link to these badges is below. We thought perhaps this would be of interest to the children at home too? Possibly a nice half term project?

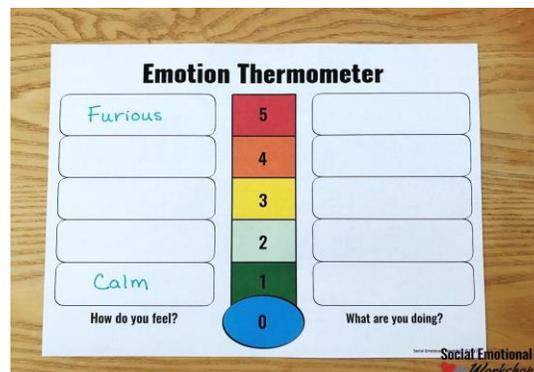
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges>

### This week's wellbeing idea...

#### Using visuals to help children talk about their feelings

Making a feelings thermometer with your child can help in many different ways. In the picture below, there are spaces on the thermometer to label each colour with a feeling (lots of talk about different words to describe feelings and the intensity of each word helps here) and then on the other side describe what this feeling feels like physically is a helpful descriptor for many children.

When children are overwhelmed by big feelings, they can point to the colour on the thermometer so that they know you understand how they feel (this can be instantly reassuring to know someone recognises your discomfort). Later when these big feelings have disappeared, you can look at the thermometer again and talk about where their feelings are now and what has changed. Over time this is a useful tool in building emotional resilience and compassion because it helps children to have a rich 'emotional' vocabulary that can be the key for children unlocking how to respond to 'big' feelings.



### **Our response to the recent parent forum:**

Again, thank you for your time in participating with this process. We have met as a whole school team to discuss the points raised and have detailed some responses to the most common comments. Where comments were a bit more individualised or what we consider a 'quick fix' - we have hopefully already followed up on this.

I haven't recorded all of the lovely positive things that were shared with us but 'thank you'! It really helps to hear these too. I do think the most important thing is working in partnership with SBS families so that we can continue to build our remote provision together. You are doing an amazing job - really well done!

<b>You've said</b>	<b>We've responded</b>
Sometimes it is difficult to know how long or how much learning our children should complete for each task.	We will try to make clear our expectations around the amount of work and give a sense of the time we would spend on a task in school. We will also try to help children understand this through our live lessons and registrations.
It can be difficult to take breaks for outdoor time during the day due to children having different live lesson timetables.	Due to timetabling across the school, it is difficult to give long breaks during the school day but we will all avoid setting lessons between 10.15-10.45am in order to provide a break.
The registrations are really positive and the children enjoy attending them; it can be difficult to make it to the afternoon registration.	No worries - we hope to see children most days but respect that sometimes our timings do not work with the schedules of individual families. We do not mind if you miss a registration or lesson - when you can, please just let us know.
Sometimes the pace of learning is challenging.	We are learning all the time as novice 'virtual teachers.' We are working hard in the background to upskill as virtual teachers and will keep developing. We have purposely

	<p>offered a blended approach of live, recorded and independent lessons as we know different learners and different tasks suit different styles best.</p> <p><b>Please encourage your child to message or tell their teacher if they are finding something tricky and then we will help.</b></p>
<p>It helps to know what the lessons will be in advance.</p>	<p>Absolutely! Where we can, we will schedule our lessons the day prior to them taking place.</p>
<p>It is nice when there is a balance of topics.</p>	<p>We do plan to teach the whole National Curriculum and are adapting our normal planning. Over the term, you should see a breadth in the topics and subjects we offer the children.</p>
<p>The live lessons are great - can we have more!</p>	<p>We love the live lessons too! We would like to offer more live lessons but this needs to be balanced with group sizes in these live lessons. To offer more live lessons we would need to have larger groups. This is a difficult decision and one that we have taken time to consider.</p> <p>Overall, we feel that children are really benefiting from seeing us in small groups and we are pleased with the quality of learning we are getting. We are concerned that if we have larger groups we will miss this. So we will not be increasing the number of live lessons, but for some children we will be offering some additional support and we will be in contact with individual families to discuss this.</p>
<p>It can be isolating for parents too and it is challenging not seeing other parents.</p>	<p>The Friends of SBS have offered to run some virtual coffee mornings and school will support this.</p>

Some whole school worships would be nice.

I agree but I am a little nervous around the technology and managing to stream 146 children! So, I have started recording some worships. I am also delighted that children are recording worships and I will share these too.  
Let's see what happens on 8th March and if we continue in this context, we will plan some whole school events.

**Finally key dates:**

- Half term holiday Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February. School closed to all and a break from remote provision at home.
- INSET day - Thursday 1st April. Again school closed to all on this day.
- Easter holidays: Friday 2nd April to Friday 16th April. School closed to all.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Warm regards

*Anne Moir*