



St Hilary School Newsletter

"The Best we can be"

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First and foremost, HAPPY NEW YEAR from everyone at St Hilary School! We hope that your Christmas plans were not disrupted too badly and that you all got to have the best possible celebrations with your families. I don't know about you but that all seems like a very long time ago now ... so much has developed and changed since then.

The week started with our planned INSET day. Our whole staff team, in collaboration with our Leading Edge Academies Partner schools, were provided with excellent opportunities to develop their understanding of curriculum development and design. We were treated to sessions led by three experts who are leading the way in this field. In the afternoon we then had English training purely for our St Hilary team – as Miss Jelbert, our very own English expert, introduced exciting work we have planned to complete with the children this year. **Then ...**

Monday at 8pm everything took a rather surprising turn as National Lockdown 3 was announced. With this came a range of emotions for us all: shock, disappointment, confusion, anger, sadness and the strange sense of uncertainty to name a few! But with the dust settling on the news at about 8.15 pm plans for the half term ahead were being formulated by the parents, who were considering juggling childcare and work responsibilities and the school, who were busy with all manner of logistics.

As is this school community's way, it is clear that everyone linked to the school rallied quickly. We were so grateful for your flexibility on Tuesday, as keeping your children at home was so vital for the school to get prepared and ready for the coming period of Remote Education. While teachers planned and prepared their lessons on Seesaw and we mapped out a multitude of logistics, you and your families dusted off the seesaw logins, charged your devices, tried to plan out how you would manage your work, schooling and the general day to day responsibilities!

Most importantly what happened was the school community proved that out of adversity and challenge we can grow and pull together to meet the needs of the children we are all here to serve.

The response to the remote learning has been remarkable, with Years 1 to 6 slipping back into the routines of the last Academic Year and our new Reception families taking their first steps into this world of remote teaching and learning with real enthusiasm. All the while, the Critical Worker Classes have done the very same in school – seesawing and getting stuck into their learning, thanks to the support of our ever-willing team of TAs and teachers.

So, at the end of week 1 of Lockdown 3, I think all of us should stop, take a breath and reflect on the events of what really has been the strangest of weeks. But here let us all focus on the positives (and there will have been many) and not dwell on the bits that didn't go quite as well as we had hoped (and there will have been ... some). After this let everyone switch off at the end of this week and be proud of the fact we have coped, probably stumbled and picked ourselves up a few times, laughed, maybe cried, supported each other, proved to ourselves we can teach fractions, despite not having seen one since Year 6 (or whatever your equivalent was with your child) and made it through.

We hope that despite the challenges of the week you have felt fully supported with your child's learning and have been provided with all of the information you required. We will of course strive to provide the highest standards of education throughout this lockdown and would like to reassure you that if at any stage it feels tough or unmanageable the school is here to support.



As a first port of call you can always email your child's teacher about their work (but please make this during the working day and be patient with receiving a reply as they are incredibly busy planning and responding to the children's posts!). If you require technical support email Mr Larter or me (although as the youth in this duo you'll probably get more sense from him!), and if you have general enquiries email the office or feel free to pick up the phone to talk it through - there will be someone in the school office all week next week, so remember we are only a call away!

Anyway, for now, rest, relax and as I said reflect on the successes that we have all been a part of this week and I look forward to providing you with a lockdown newsletter 'crammed full' of high-quality examples of children's work next week!

Have a great weekend

Rob Hamshar

P.S. Oh and before I forget, please pass on how proud all of the teachers and I are of your wonderful children!

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