

# Newsletter

Issue 20

12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, IP4 4EU

<http://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryipswich.com>



## Tweet of the Week

"May the word of God sown into the soil of our hearts, lead us in turn to sow hope through closeness to others. Just as God has done with us."

[Pope Francis \(@Pontifex\)](#)



## SAFEGUARDING

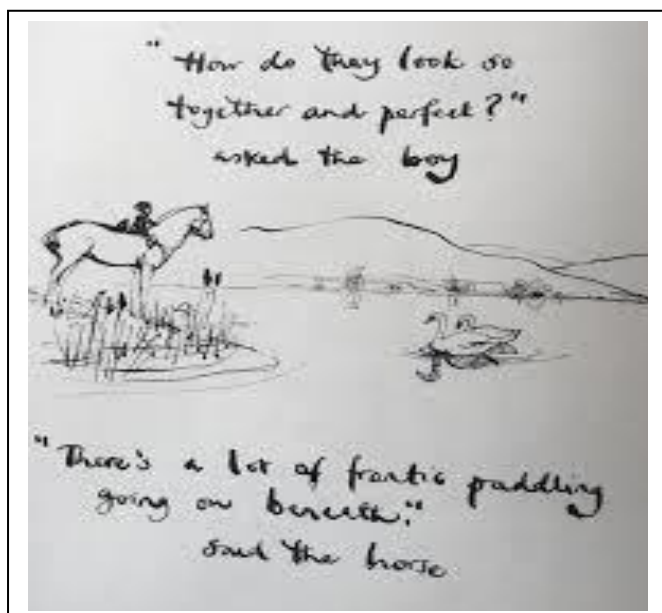
Please be reassured that although the school is closed to some children, we are still here to support you and your family. If you have any safeguarding concerns please email [admin@st-marys-ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk) and Mrs Berry will contact you directly.

Dear Parents,

What a half term this has been! I would like to thank you all for your support, it has been greatly appreciated.

The engagement with remote learning has been fantastic. With your support, the children have adapted to learning from home and been able to continue their learning journey.

We have learnt that life is not always perfect. Remember that doing your best is always good enough. You are doing a great job.



Have a wonderful half term, unplug and recharge those batteries. Take time to enjoy the small things, baking, playing a board game, drawing, going for a walk. Don't forget to go outdoors and enjoy God's beautiful world.

Warmest regards  
Mrs Berry

### **Baby News:**

Congratulations to Miss Godbold and her family on the wonderful news that she has had a baby boy named Harry born on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021. All our best wishes xxx



### **February Half Term:**

The school will be closed to all pupils for February Half Term, Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021. School will reopen on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to the vulnerable and key worker children that already have a confirmed space.

### **Face Masks:**

Please could we remind all parents to please wear a face mask/covering when dropping off or collecting your child from school.

## Children's mental health

Here are some pictures from last Friday 05<sup>th</sup> February from Children's mental health week.



### Express Yourself

Making myself individual.

Expressing feelings, emotions and opinions.

Giving others the opportunity to express themselves.

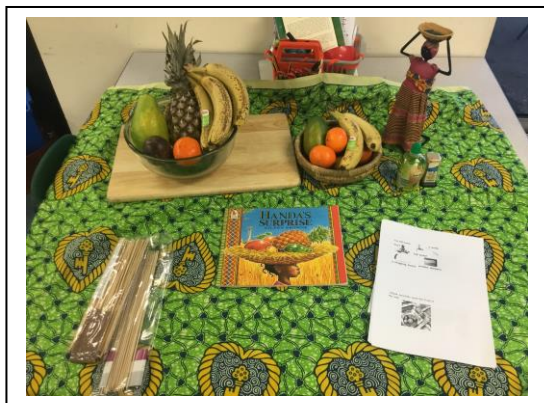
Accepting that we are all different.

No negative thoughts.



## Year1

Year 1 have been using Handa's Surprise in Literacy. We tried the different fruits she takes to her friend (passion fruit - ew!) Learning about instructions, we followed a recipe to make our own fruit kebab. Delicious!



## Thank you to all of our Critical Workers:

The whole school community would like to thank all of our critical workers their on-going work during this pandemic.



## Important, Track and Trace for February Half Term:

If your child receives a positive Covid test during the February half term please follow the procedure below.

| Symptoms began on<br>(or date of positive test if asymptomatic) | Between Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February   | Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> February  | Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> February  | Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February  |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Action Required   | Parents Inform school immediately. School will notify individuals within respective bubble who may have come into contact. Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 10 days                                   | Parents Inform school immediately. School will notify individuals within respective bubble who may have come into contact on Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February. Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 10 days | Parents Inform school immediately. School will notify individuals within respective bubble who may have come into contact on Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February. Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 10 days | Unless testing was delayed following onset of symptoms (for example, delays caused by postal tests), pupil was not in setting and therefore there is no need to contact school. |
|   | Please email <a href="mailto:admin@st-marys-ipswich.suffolk.uk">admin@st-marys-ipswich.suffolk.uk</a> in the event of a confirmed case.   |   |   |   |
| Parental Responsibility   | Parents to notify close contact family and friends and follow advice as per NHS Covid-19 guidelines <a href="http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/">http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/</a> |   |   |   |

## Science:

Mr Cook will be sending 10 'Starters for STEM' science activities weekly for children to try at home. We'd love to see pictures of children completing the activities, for next week's newsletter.

There are some extra, more challenging STEM challenges available here

([https://www.stem.org.uk/system/files/elibraryresources/2020/04/03\\_Starters%20for%20STEM\\_6%20Apr.pdf](https://www.stem.org.uk/system/files/elibraryresources/2020/04/03_Starters%20for%20STEM_6%20Apr.pdf)) too! Have fun!

## Starters for STEM

Starters for STEM are 10 activities that parents can use at home to help children develop their science, technology, engineering and maths skills. These activities are easy to resource and provide children with the stimulus to talk about the world around them. If you see a link you can explore how to extend these activities, you will need to sign up, for free, to access these materials. Don't forget to share your work on social media [#ScienceFromHome](#)

**Best Bird Beak**

Birds' beaks have adapted to be the best shape to pick up the food they eat. Try using chopsticks, a spoon, a clothes peg and tweezers to pick up rice, raisins, stones, seeds and spaghetti. Which beak is best for each food?

<https://www.stem.org.uk/rx32w3>

**Carrot Tops**

Cut the top off a carrot and place it on a plate with some water. Watch what happens. Can you measure any growth?

**Wonderful weather**

Keep a diary of today's weather. Was the weather better in the morning or in the afternoon?

<https://www.stem.org.uk/elibrary/resource/26225>

**Where has your food come from?**

Have a look at the labels on 5 different types of food in your house. Where did they come from? Which place in UK or which country in the World? Which has travelled the furthest?

<https://www.stem.org.uk/rxtnp>

**Who's on the menu?**

Create a list of the animals in your garden from the largest visitor to the smallest insect. Who eats who? Can you create any food chains or a food web to show who's on the menu?

<http://tiny.cc/rmw7lz>

**Tallest Tower**

How can you make the tallest free standing tower from just one piece of A4 paper? You can use a pair of scissors, but no glue or tape is allowed.

<https://www.stem.org.uk/rxsrk>

**New Roof for the Three Pigs**

After the Big Bad Wolf blew down the 3 little pigs house they needed to repair the roof. They decided to make it waterproof to stop the rain coming in. Can you build them a roof that will stop the rain coming in?

Explore different materials to find the one that is most waterproof.

<http://tiny.cc/htu7lz>

**Make a telescope**

Find a used kitchen roll tube and wrap a piece of card around it. Tape the outside cardboard roll so that it can slide. You can decorate it if you'd like.

Use your telescope to look at things really closely. What can you see through it?

**Water Music**

Arrange some drinking glasses on a table. If you hit them with a pencil what sound do they make? Is each different? Now add different amounts of water to each glass. How has the sound changed? Can you compose a song to play on your water xylophone?

<http://tiny.cc/rwv7lz>

**Making things move**

Take a toy car, or any toy with wheels and give it a push on 4 different surfaces in your house or outside space.

Which surface do you think the car will go furthest on? Try it out a few times to find out. Can you find any other ways to make your toy car move?

<http://tiny.cc/rwv7lz>

## **Online Safety Mr Cook:**

Tuesday was Safer Internet Day and children across the school took part in assemblies and completed activities. Mr Cook is looking forward to seeing your posters about Online Safety!

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/safer-internet-day-2021-top-tips/safer-internet-day-2>



## **Parent Helpline for Remote Learning:**

### **Ipswich Schools' Remote Learning Helpline for families**

Remote Learning Support Assistants in 18 of our schools in Ipswich will be manning an "after-hours" helpline for families to support remote learning. This is designed to support parents and carers whose commitments make it difficult for them to contact their school during normal school hours.

We would always encourage parents and carers to speak to their school first, but if you need a chat about remote learning in the evening or weekend [this is what we can help with:](#)

- Trouble shooting IT issues connected to work sent home from school
- Understanding instructions in work sent home from school
- Advice and tips on online resources that might help with completion of work sent home
- Ideas to support your child's study skills

Sometimes we'll be able to support with enquiries on the spot, and where we can't help fix issues there and then, we'll act as a messaging service with your school, and can call you back during helpline hours.

#### **What we can't help with:**

- Pastoral, behaviour or wellbeing concerns
- Complaints
- Safeguarding issues
- Free School Meals
- School place availability
- Schools that are not in the [Ipswich Opportunity Area](#)

These should always be addressed to your school.

If you feel worried and need support with any of the above, Suffolk County Council provide information [on their website](#) and provide a helpline: 0800 068 3131

We also have a growing list of links to advice and support for families on the [Ipswich Opportunity Area](#) website.

**\*\*\*live from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021\*\*\***

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## Ipswich Opportunity Area Remote Learning Helpline



0800  
541115

Mon - Fri  
6pm-9pm

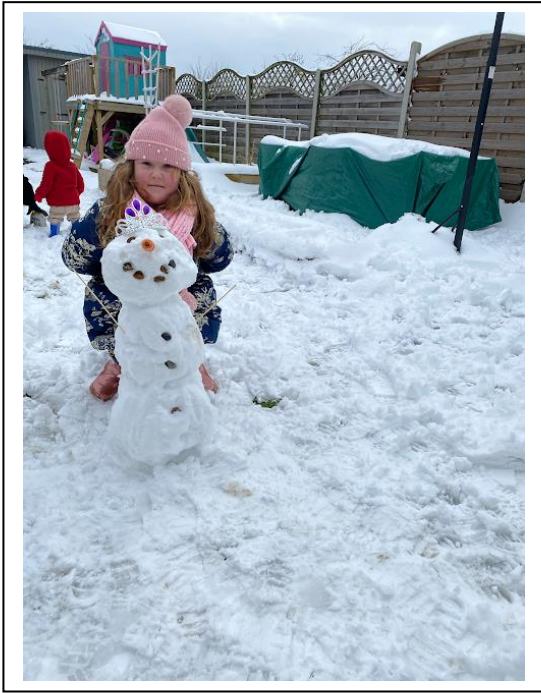
Saturday  
9am-Noon

Ipswich  
Opportunity  
Area

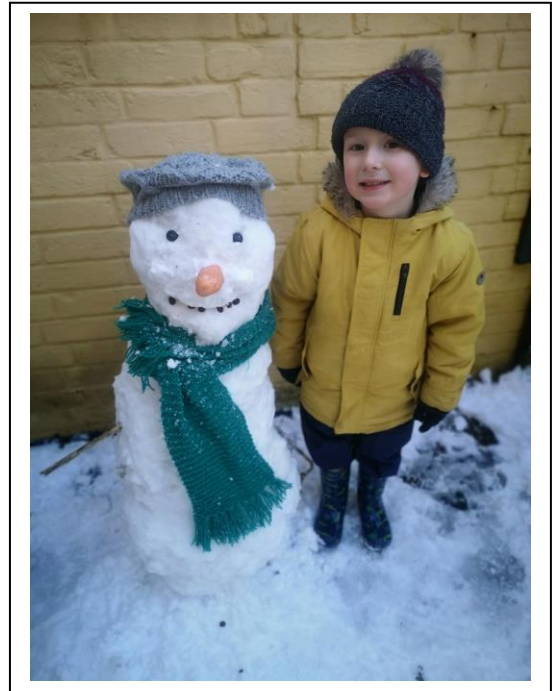
### Snow Gallery:











## Dates for your Diary:

### **Term dates for 2021**

#### **Spring Term 2021**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March

**Half term:** 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February

**Staff Training day:** 4<sup>th</sup> January

#### **Summer Term 2021**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July

**Bank holiday:** 3<sup>rd</sup> May

**Half term:** 31<sup>st</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June

**Staff Training days:** 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> July (disaggregated)

### **Term dates for 2021 - 2022**

#### **Autumn Term 2021**

Wednesday 01<sup>st</sup> September – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December

**Half term:** 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October

**Staff Training day:** 01<sup>st</sup> September

#### **Spring Term 2022**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 08<sup>th</sup> April

**Half term:** 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February

**Staff Training day:** 4<sup>th</sup> January

#### **Summer Term 2022**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July

**Bank holiday:** 02<sup>nd</sup> May

**Half term:** 30<sup>th</sup> May – 03<sup>rd</sup> June

**Staff Training days:** 25<sup>th</sup> April, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> July