



Term: Spring - **Issue Number:** 05 - **Date:** 5th February 2021

A MESSAGE FROM MRS WALLIS

Last week, I mentioned that this week is Children's Mental Health Week. Every day, children have been responding to questions that explore how they are feeling during this lockdown period. Monday's question asked children to consider any goals that they have achieved and what obstacles they may have overcome in order to achieve them. The responses ranged from learning to ride a bike to completing a piece of work, managing to master the weekly dance challenge to creating a piece of artwork. It has been really encouraging to read of children reflecting on positive outcomes during a time of uncertainty for everyone and the resilience they have shown to achieve them.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your partnership as we seek to engage our learners in accessing education from home, or school if the children need to be there. I know it's difficult to continue to maintain enthusiasm for a routine and for learning in such a different way, but it is good to see how many children are engaging and thriving even in these circumstances.

I hope you have an enjoyable and restful weekend.

WHOLE SCHOOL BIBLE STORY CHALLENGE

Thank you to everyone who has been sending in depictions of the Bible story I told in assembly a couple of weeks ago. It has been great to see such a variety of responses from paintings, collage, drawings, comic strips, poetry and more – there's still a week to go and anyone can join in. Please do keep hold of the original work and bring them in when we come back to school so that I can make a display of all the wonderful illustrations.

Just in case you need a reminder – the assembly is on the website – number 3 - and the story from the Bible can be found in Luke 5: 1 – 11

FAMILY CONFERENCING

A few weeks ago, I mentioned that this term's family conferencing would take the form of a phone call from your child's class teacher to discuss how they are coping with remote learning as well as any other issues or concerns you wanted to raise. By now, most of you will have received your phone call, which I hope has been beneficial. If you have not yet had a call by Wednesday 10th of February, and would like one, please can you contact the office via phone – 01992 463214 or email – admin@stcaths.herts.sch.uk and we will arrange a time when the teacher can contact you. If you have a call from an unknown number at this time, it could be the class teacher who is trying to contact you from home.



TECHNOLOGY CORNER

From conversations we've had with families and colleagues, the main challenge of remote learning this week has not been a technology one. Many families have expressed how difficult they are finding to motivate their children to get started with learning, with many children wanting to sleep later on in the day than they would normally or not wanting to log on to lessons – you are not alone! I think myself and other members of staff have felt like that on occasion but as adults are perhaps better equipped to know when to 'switch off' for a bit to take a brain break or a healthy snack.

The National Online Safety have some suggestions as to how you can support children to learn remotely. These include, sticking to a daily routine and knowing a start and end time as well as encouraging children to take screen breaks; encouraging them to do some exercise or get some fresh air.

Others have suggested that younger pupils might find it helps to put their school uniform jumper to indicate when it is home learning time

SNACKS IN SCHOOL

A number of children in school are bringing snacks in from home. Children are offered a piece of fruit from a selection that varies each day but includes apples, pears, raisins etc. Children are welcome to bring their own if they prefer but please ensure any snacks fit within our healthy school approach – no crisps please.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

This week, Mrs Wallis considers the story of the lion and the mouse as we think about our half term value of service. We also see some more examples of wonderful ways the school Bible story has been depicted - is yours there? [Follow this link to see the assembly.](#)

REMOTE LEARNING AT ST CATHERINE'S

You may be aware that all schools have to provide information to families about how their school manages remote learning for children. You can find this information on the school website; it was also emailed to all families at the start of this term as we began the latest national lockdown. If you have any questions about provision, please do not hesitate to contact me via the usual channels – by phoning the school office on 01992 463214 or email – admin@stcaths.herts.sch.uk

Here are the results from last week's Times Table Rockstars Battle of the Classes!

Year 3 Clock Tower: 3468 Rye Meads: 4091 ★	Year 4 Rawdon House: 1979 ★ Lampits: 1136
Year 5 New River: 5553 ★ Dobbs Weir: 747	Year 6: DLR: 2550 ★ The Lynch: 2287

Highest scoring players/ superstars: Yr3: Louisa; Yr4: Leon; Yr5: Aaron; Yr6: Riley.
Highest scoring class: *New River, again!* *Well done if you played!* *Make sure that you play next week.*

TOURNAMENT VS CHRISTCHURCH SCHOOL – This battle is in play now!!
Head over to TTRS and score some points for St Catherine's!!!



ST CATHERINE'S VS CHRISTCHURCH

PRESENTS



ST CATHERINE'S VS CHRISTCHURCH

05 FEBRUARY - 11 FEBRUARY 2021

*** ANSWER AS MANY QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE ***
PLAY IN ANY GAME TYPE * THE WINNING SCHOOL WILL HAVE
THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CORRECT ANSWERS PER PUPIL *
*** ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR FULL DETAILS AND RULES ***

TIMESTABLES ROCKSTARS



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