



**Our school song says 'Here at SRG our strength is God'**

Bible Verse for these strange times

The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. JOHN 16:32

**Message from Mrs Curtis**

Well, we have finished our first week of running as a virtual school. I would like to say a huge thank you to all my versatile and flexible staff who have worked so hard preparing resources and upskilling so that they can teach remotely. Every member of our team has found a way to make sure all resources are ready and the school can be open for those who need to be in. I am truly appreciative of their commitment and professionalism. Izzy has answered all queries sent to us and will be picking up emails via [homelearning@sir-robert-gefferys.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:homelearning@sir-robert-gefferys.cornwall.sch.uk). Always ask if you find you have a problem with your computer etc. During shutdown we will be able to lend some of our chrome books out, this may be needed if you have many siblings. Please email me and I can arrange a collection etc. we do have a signing out system and ask you to look after it so it can be returned safely when life returns to normal.

Our building is open on a daily basis with skeleton staff so if there is something we can do or you need, please email or ring first and we can make sure that it is ready. We are limiting access inside but staff will help you in anyway that they can.

If you are experiencing any problems not related to learning, email me at [head@sir-robert-gefferys.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:head@sir-robert-gefferys.cornwall.sch.uk) as we are contacted by all sorts of agencies offering support in different ways and hopefully we may be able to sign post you in the right direction.

We have been sent so many activities that you can access at home and at times it is overwhelming. However we also know that a balance of screen time, physical exercise, creativity, written activities and play is important. Children are enjoying interaction with teachers and I am pleased that phone calls have been well received.

As it would have been Easter break I am asking for phone calls to be resumed after the official Easter holidays and it is at that point that the learning activities will be published. However, we have put suggested activities on the website and on google classrooms so that when children are confined to their houses there are things you can suggest.

It is a difficult time for all but we will get through it. We know that overall we have an infrastructure that will help get us through. Do continue to let us know if there is anything else you need and also share your good ideas.

PS.

If we can help older siblings because they are not receiving guidance from their schools, we will do what we can. They can certainly access our online learning sites etc if needed.

The church has suggested five tips for tackling loneliness and isolation:

- Pray. Light a candle, if safe, and pray for hope, faith and strength to keep loving and caring for each other during this time of struggle.
- Talk about how you feel. This may be difficult if you are self-isolating, but do use the telephone, internet, and social media. If you need to contact a counsellor this can be arranged by your GP, or via local agencies, or privately. Samaritans are there 24 hours a day, every day, and it's free to call them on 116 123.
- Focus on the things that you can change, not on the things you can't.
- Look after yourself - physically, emotionally, spiritually. Plan things that you enjoy at regular intervals during the day – a TV programme, a phone call, a book, a favourite dish, a game.
- Look after others. Even if only in small ways, but do what you can: a smile, a kind word, writing a letter or an email.

A copy of the Church of England's Supporting Good Mental Health booklet is in the School Closures General information part of the website and will also be uploaded with this newsletter.

### **Letter from Richard Twallin, Chair of Governors, SRG**

As the Department for Education and National Governance Association acknowledge, and the entire country is aware, the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented - requiring parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to controlling the outbreak.

At the end of the first week of these arrangements at Sir Robert Geffery's, during which most children have been studying at home, I and all the governors would like to say a massive thank you to the Headteacher and her fantastic team. It is evident from messages I have received that the staff have faced the challenges with their customary commitment, working very well together to provide learning at home and support for those at school. I understand that the regular phone calls to children have gone down well and that the learning platforms created this week have been highly effective. Teachers are willingly leaving the safety of their family homes to support key worker families and the vulnerable. So, huge thanks from us all!

We all realise that effective education results from a partnership between the school and parents. This is particularly crucial at the moment and the governors would also like to pay tribute to the commitment of parents and their families. You will have other challenges, work, community or family related, as well as the responsibility for supervising your children while they are studying at home. Thank you very much for your understanding and all that you are doing to make the current arrangements work.

Richard Twallin  
Chair of Governors  
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There are some holiday activity ideas in the News and School Closure sections of the school website.  
<http://www.sir-robert-gefferys.cornwall.sch.uk/school-closure/>

### **Links to physical activities**

Cosmic Kids Yoga

<https://www.cosmickids.com/>

Cosmic Kids Zen Den

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8snGkhBF7ngDp1oJtx5VcjwatxZn8xLK>

exercise, fitness, mindfulness

<https://family.gonoodle.com/>

<https://kidz-fit.co.uk/kidz-zone/>

### **READING**

Reading is key to most things and you can still access books in other ways.

These links will help those learning to read and those who just want another book to read

Books

eBooks for age 3–4 · eBooks for age 4–5 · eBooks for age 5–6 · eBooks for age 6–7 · eBooks for age 7–9 · eBooks for age 9–11

<https://worldbook.kitaboo.com/reader/worldbook/index.html#!/>

### **Accelerated learning books**

As part of our 'Renaissance at home' initiative, we have produced a series of guides to share with students and parents in order to help facilitate reading for pleasure at home. This does include information for Accelerated Reader quizzing at home.

Schools may be closing, but reading doesn't have to stop. To help support teachers, students and parents 'Keep the UK reading', we are offering free limited access to thousands of digital books through myON and articles from myON News. Start reading here.

<https://www.getepic.com/learn/free>