



Weekly Update

I am so pleased with what we are now able to offer children on and off the school site. The staff are all working incredibly hard to tweak and improve on a day-to-day basis. There is so much determination to make sure that no-one misses learning opportunities because of lockdown.

We are fortunate to have a staff with a can-do attitude who are prepared to go the extra mile. It is amazing to walk around the school and see the children at home working alongside those in the classroom. The wonder of technology - this time we are able to keep the children in our sight on a daily basis. We are using a variety of techniques from live lessons, google meets, google loom and prepared lessons, which seems to be working well.

There will always be someone on the google meet to answer queries or help children if needed. Many year groups now have additional classrooms so they can support specific groups of people and this means that different tasks can be set more easily. It is brilliant to see staff supporting one another to find solutions.

The feedback that we have received has also helped us to improve and tweak provision. We now have added assemblies and they are ready to go live each day, so adding even more to the normal routine.

Having had a positive case, it has resulted in us reviewing our systems and risk assessment. It was not the experience I had wanted, but now we know what happens and who is there to support and guide. You will always be informed that there has been a case but obviously will never be told names. If there is an impact on a bubble, group or even individuals you will receive specific information telling you what we have been advised to do. We will always follow the guidance and it was good to discuss with public health what we also have in place to reduce opportunity for transmission.

Where we 'live life in its fullness' (John 10.10)
Knowing that God is our Strength and with His help we will be the best we can

Two 'foggers' arrived last Monday so we have added fogging to our cleaning regime as well. The children wash their hands and use sanitiser, we have so many buckets set up for regular cleaning - all staff wipe down after every session. Trish also comes in at lunchtime to clean all areas. We have pedal bins for tissues and children wash hands as well after sneezing. Staff are now wearing masks in communal areas including the corridors as an additional barrier. Bubbles are kept tight and having several staff in each bubble has helped this. When staff are contacted via track and trace or if there is any need to be tested etc. then that member of staff will support from home. This has been working well and means more support to guide learning on and off site.

We do have higher numbers in school than last March, and whereas I must stress that we are always there to have children of critical workers when they are working, if you are able to keep your child at home then we would encourage you to do so. Thank you to those who did write to Sheryll Murray about school staff being vaccinated, your support in this is appreciated.

Whole School (AR Yr 2 - 6) Reading Challenge

Reading can be a pleasant way to pass the time and while we know that many of our children are engaging in reading, we also know that perhaps reading isn't as predominant in our lives at the moment as it could be. We would like our children to re-engage with their love of reading and take on our reading challenge.

Last year we tried to reach 100 million words in one school year but unfortunately fell short of our target. This year we would like to try again. Can we reach 100 million words as a school before the end of the school year? We would love to write to the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers, the school Governors and you, our school community, to further celebrate our schools reading resilience. Can you Help? We are already over halfway and only one term in. Let's read!

Safeguarding of Children

We are amazed how the children are learning on and off the site and we are pleased with the continued progress the children are making.

We take safeguarding very seriously I would like to remind everybody:

- When children are accessing learning outside school it is important that they are fully dressed.
- Think carefully where children are in the house - lying on their bed is not always appropriate - sitting up is better for posture.
- Everything on the classroom remains on the classroom and confidentiality must be maintained at all times.
- Make sure children are not spending time on games where they are talking to strangers - with learning being online, having time away from screens in down time is a good idea.
- I know many classes have a social media group - please be careful what is shared on this, as some schools are finding that it causes anxiety and upset to others. When people are struggling in general, I can imagine how sharing things can cause distress unintentionally. Fortunately at present, this has not been an issue here and I hope that is because our community understands and has empathy for others.
- Make sure your wi-fi filters are set and parental controls are set if your child is working at home - we are informed that some children in the country have been targeted and this would have prevented it happening. Keep your child safe.

Should you ever have any safeguarding concerns please contact Mrs Curtis on head@sir-robert-gefferys.cornwall.sch.uk.

To help learning sessions:

- Children do not have mobile phones with them that can be a distraction.
- They do not spend time fiddling changing backgrounds.
- Encourage good listening and focus if possible - children know expectations in school (most are really focused and engaged). The level of independence seems much better this lock-down with staff supporting remotely and in the classroom.
- Please encourage your child to ask the staff online for any help or further explanations, we are trying to reduce the stress levels of the adults at home if we can.

Let us know if there is anything else we can do that would support the learning while we are having to work in this way.

I continue to be indebted to the staff who find solutions and are using their skills so well to teach and feed back to children wherever they are. Every day we learn something new!

Thank you for your ongoing support once again.

Free School Meals

We know that more people are now eligible for free dinners than are claiming them. This is the income-based entitlement, not the scheme that provides a meal for all 4-7 year olds. Please have a look at the criteria and apply if you are unsure, because it will mean your child would also gain other benefits for the majority of their primary education even if the free dinners entitlement is removed. Pupil premium funding to support learning and free music lessons can be accessed for the child.

We are providing vouchers, not the food parcels as seen in the press, for people in this scheme.

We do not want any family to struggle more than they have to at this difficult time. We have access to basic food packages that we can get to you. Please don't go without - email me on head@sir-robert-gefferys.cornwall.sch.uk and make us aware. So many organisations have made their services available to us. Please do not feel embarrassed or think others deserve it more - we have the resources and want to distribute but need to know. I do not want anyone missing out because we did not know your circumstances. You do not need to be entitled to free dinners - just have a need at the moment.

Awards

Foundation

William Warden - consistent effort
Cody Stanford-Beer - super engagement with all learning
Ethan B- Fantastic maths
Aiden G - perseverance
Lyra C - excellence
Henry T - amazing handwriting
Freddie T- kindness
Kezia W - positive attitude

Year 1

Lily W-P	Effort in handwriting
Lowenna H	Kindness
Ella W	Accuracy in maths
Noah K	Brilliant thinking skills

Year 2

Learner of the Week	Seren
Creativity in English	Ellis
Super Independence	Norah
'Spicy' Learning Confidence	Charlie T
Making Amazing Learning Connections	Max C
Reflective Thinking	Edmund
Presentation and Handwriting	Alex
Reader of the Week	Emily

Year 3

Well done Year 3 - another brilliant week of hard work. Your descriptive language is really developing and your application of formal methods in Maths is superb!

Well done to Evie and Ashton for receiving their ½ Million Words on AR. Who else can earn theirs before Half Term?

Resilience	Ruan
Presentation in their work	Alice
Fantastic perseverance with the use of Google Classroom	All of Year 3
Effort in Maths	Rafferty
Descriptive writing	Ashton/Evie/Katie
Enthusiasm	Holly
Learner of the Week	James
Positive attitude	Charlie & Sidney

Year 4

The Year 4 team have been so impressed with our class this week – they've continued to focus brilliantly on their learning throughout the week. Year 4 have been well focused and produced some high-quality work. Miss Angwin, Miss Townsend, Mr Yeoman and I would also like to say a huge thank you to the parents and carers who have done a fantastic job supporting home learning.

For some stunning writing	Penny B
For superb descriptive writing	Finley S
For fabulous effort in maths	Adam C
For giving it 100% on Mr Yeoman's Sporting Challenges	Eris BT
For always working hard in school	Dougie B
For putting in 100% during all his home learning	William B
For a superb attitude to reading	Riley B

Year 5

Handwriting award	Libby P
Google Classroom award	Samuel
Poetry award	Zac
Reading award	Gracie
Supporting others award	William D
Investigative Science award	Sienna

Year 6

Handwriting	Eddie T, Charlie V and Eliza F
Enthusiasm	Darcie C and Matthew S
Science	Isabella M and Shiloh
History	Emma D
Persuasive writing	David Br/Jasper K
Helpfulness	Lillie A
Maths	Lucas
Kindness	Melody
Sense of humour	Matthew S for brightening up our online classroom
Sharing ideas to improve remote learning and self-motivation	Evie Philips
Focus and effort	Matthew Shaddock
Accuracy and fluency in maths	Eddie Emma and Millie

Packs for home learning

Please ask your child's teacher for reading books if you need them.

Common Colds

If your child is full of cold, please keep them home from school (if attending at the moment) longer than usual as we are trying to keep all our staff as healthy as possible.

Accelerated Reader Weekly Round Up

Our whole school word count for this academic year to date is: 54,093,931

Whole school total books read to date: 6,190

Class word count – Year to date

Year 2 2,759,390

Year 3 3,962,950

Year 4 13,798,687

Year 5 14,273,438

Year 6 19,299,466

Top 5 word counts

Year 2 Emily F

Year 3 Evie T

Year 4 William B

Year 5 Molly T

Year 6 Evie P

Good Progress

Year 2 Imogen P

Year 3 Ruan H

Year 4 Leyla C

Year 5 Samuel M

Year 6 Melody E

¼ Million Lacey B

½ Million Ashton B, Evie T, Millie B-C, Molly T

¾ Million William Br, Ben C, David Bu.,

1 Million Jasper K, Emma D

2 Million Ethan F, Alfie B

3 Million Sienna B