**Embrace excellence through God, to build a better world**

***"Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God."* – Micah 6 v. 8**

I was walking through the school earlier this week, when I overheard the Year 6 children in Critical Worker School having a deep discussion and I had to stop and listen in. They were discussing the importance of a positive mental attitude, and how important that is at the moment. This is a notoriously difficult time of the year, and throw in a worldwide pandemic and another bout of homeschooling and it gives a whole new meaning to "Blue Monday"! It is understandable to feel overwhelmed by everything at the moment, but hope is on the horizon. We have a wonderful community, and we will stay strong together, and please always remember that we are here to help, and do reach out to us if we can support.

Earlier this week, we sent out a survey to our parents & carers, asking for feedback on our approach to remote education. We received an avalanche of lovely, positive responses, and we greatly appreciate the fact you have taken the time to write such kind things when you are all so supremely busy. After reading all of your responses, I am in awe of you all and want to say a huge well done to all of you for facilitating remote learning so brilliantly whilst juggling a hundred and one other responsibilities. You all deserve a medal, and at the very least a lovely holiday when all of this is over! I think many of us at the moment though may just settle for the schools being fully re-opened again!

**Lockdown Library**

On Monday, we're going to be opening St Peter's Lockdown Library, in the Scott Building, from 2:00pm-3:00pm. During this time, the children will be able to select free choice reading books while out and about for their daily dose of exercise. We have sent out further information, and we do kindly ask that if you would like to attend, you follow the Covid-19 safety measures. Research shows that reading is good for children's mental health and wellbeing: it offers comfort and makes children feel better, especially when they cannot see their friends and family. There has never been a better time to dive into a good book!

**Wellbeing & Exercise**

Exercise is also very important for our health and wellbeing, and next week, Miss Cook and Mr Cotton will be setting the children (and parents are very welcome to get involved too) two very different sporting challenges. More information will be provided early next week, but here's a clue to one of the challenges: if Miss Cook enters, none of us will win.

**STEM Week**

During the week beginning 8th February, we will be celebrating STEM learning, and all things science, technology, engineering and mathematics related! For those who like routine, we will be continuing to run our English and maths lessons in the morning, but the afternoons will be dedicated to STEM! It promises to be a fun-filled week, which we hope offers a welcome break in the routine, and we hope to facilitate in a way which is as easy as possible for parents & carers (e.g. not a million and one resources required or specialist equipment!). We will be sending further information out next week, and in the meantime we have a request!

If you know of any inspirational STEM role models (or maybe you are one yourself!) who would be willing to give a virtual talk to our pupils about their passion for STEM, the importance of STEM, or

their career, please do get in contact. We imagine it might be a virtual talk to one or two of our classes at a time, or a recording for our school. Whatever it might be, we'd love to hear from you if you know of anyone who might be able to help inspire our pupils.

**Food Hampers**

All children in Key Stage 1 and Reception are entitled to free school meals. If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, and you would like to request one of Chef Andrew's tasty and nutritious weekly hampers, please get in contact with Mrs Munro via the School Office.

**Home-schooling Funny Photo Competition**

On Thursday, a parent sent through a photo of their child which made me laugh out loud (and 'Awww' in equal measures) and it gave me an idea for a competition, which has been imaginatively named, "The Homeschooling Funny Photo Competition".

To take part, all you need to do is send through any funny snaps from homeschooling/this lockdown period marked for my attention to communications@stpetersce.lbhf.sch.uk

We'd love to share the photos with our community to help keep us all smiling, and there will be prizes for the winners.

**Support with Devices**

If you require any support with devices, or require further support with mobile data, please get in contact with Mrs Munro, our School Business Manager.

**Acting Headteacher's Award**

| | 15th January | 22nd January |
|---|---|---|
| Reception | Zach and Louis | Lennox and Sylvia |
| Year 1 | Rebecca and Milena | Sabine and Nicky |
| Year 2 | Elsa T and Georgia | Molly and Amelie |
| Year 3 | Bea and Dolly | Dominic and Horatio |
| Year 4 | Namkhai and Elisa | Udval and Tristan |
| Year 5 | Amalia and Louie | Amaiya and Hanna |
| Year 6 | Elena and Annabel | Ryan and Wilf |

**Citizenship Award**

Children can be nominated for a Citizenship Award by other pupils, parents and staff members. Whilst school is closed to most pupils, please do e-mail in nominations from home. Currently we are looking for nominations for children who have displayed acts of **perseverance**, as this is the Christian Value as a school we are focusing upon this half term.

**15th January –** Isaiah (Reception), Orly (Reception), Edie (Year 2), Bowen (Year 1), Alba (Year 3), Oskar (Year 2), and The St Peter's Staff Team

**22nd January –** Amelie (Year 2) and Luke (Year 2)

**Website**

Please remember to log on to our website to view your child's class page at www.stpetersce.lbhf.sch.uk. The blogs are updated weekly by the class teacher, and even though

they won't give you too much more information about what the children have been learning about this week (you already know all about that!), they are being used as a space to celebrate success, and share with you what will be learnt next week.

We also have a Twitter account which you can find here:

https://twitter.com/St_Peters_CE

Please do give us a follow!

**Finally…**

If you have any concerns or queries, please make an appointment to speak to myself, Mrs Noonan or your child's class teacher. We are always here to help and believe greatly in the importance of good communication between home and school.

I hope that you all have a wonderful weekend, with as much rest as possible, and thank you all for your continued support.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Zalar

Acting Headteacher