

22nd January 2021

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of a second full week of school and I don't know about you, but it feels more like a month! Everyone in our house is irritable and fed up and it's hard trying to keep everyone on an even keel! I hope you are managing – no doubt some will be faring better than others. Enfield Educational Psychology Service (EPS) are again offering well-being support. Please see the attached flier and email if you would benefit from a phone call.

When I think back to March 2020 (when we uploaded a pile of PDFs onto the website and then used Class Dojo for messages), we have made huge progress since then! The regular contact between staff and children via the live Google Meets/Zoom is helping to maintain some motivation to do work. I have received a number of emails about remote learning and am happy to answer any queries you may have, so please continue to email me on headteacher@st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk

With regard to using Google Classroom (Years 1-6) please note:

- Children who are in school are doing all of the daily work while they are in school.
- For children who are learning at home, each class has set up, or is in the process of setting up a "chat". This is a space where children/parents can ask questions about the work. You access "chat" via the 9 dots (waffle) on the top right of the screen. You can also private message the class teacher via this function. Please use the "chat" instead of writing messages linked to assignments, as the teachers don't always see these messages until they look at the work, which may not be until a few days later.
- The teachers are setting a "due date" for each assignment for the following day. This is not to panic you, but to help with the organisation of the work and how it will appear on the classroom. Try to stick as far as possible to the due dates as you can.
- The teachers are expecting all the children to do all of the work, but we recognise that each family has a different set-up/schedule depending on a whole range of things such as working patterns, so please do not stress if you're not managing to get it all done. The older children can be much more independent and so we do expect them to hand in all of their work.
For children who are doing work into their books, teachers will ask to see it during the live meetings and you can also upload photos of work for the teacher to see. We especially need to see longer pieces of writing as it's difficult to see these clearly in the meets. Instructions for how to turn in an assignment if you are using an iPhone or iPad are attached.
- If you have any other technical issues and need help, please do not hesitate to contact us via office@st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk

In other news, Mrs Warrington has been working with the Natural Science Museum's outreach team. As pupils are not allowed to visit the museum, they have been working on putting the workshops that would normally be available into the online world. The Museum now have trial units of work ready for pupils. We are fortunate to be trialling these free of charge. The first will be on Tuesday 26th January with the children who are in the Year 5&6 bubble. I hope they enjoy it! Many thanks to Mrs Warrington for her involvement with this exciting project.

This week on the news I was interested to watch the inauguration of Joe Biden. I was particularly impressed by the 22 year old poet Amanda Gorman, who read her poem, "The Hill We Climb", which had been specially commissioned for the occasion. I thought she brought light and hope to a fairly bleak time and think it's worth a watch! <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/poet-amanda-gorman-joins-literary-giants-on-list-of-inauguration-readers-fdxznqg8z>

Looking at the weather forecast, there is a small chance it might snow over the weekend! Perhaps there will be enough for a small snowman or the odd sledge ride or two! Whatever the weather, I hope you can enjoy the weekend with a bit of rest and relaxation.

Kind regards

Kate Baptiste
Headteacher