



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

29<sup>th</sup> January 2021



I hope you are all well and are keeping safe. I want to congratulate you on the wonderful home schooling you have been doing. We have over 93% of our children engaging in remote learning during this lockdown which is fantastic. However, as you all know this brings stresses and strains to families. So for those of you who are finding some or all of this difficult I just wanted to add some reassurance. Use your own sound intuition. You are with your children each day. You are the best judge of their mood, their energy levels, their anxiety levels... not to mention your own.

We are working together as a school community. No-one is "judging" anyone's efforts. This is a community of St Joseph's families living through a global pandemic and doing what they believe is best for their own family. At a time when many things are beyond our control let's focus on what we can control.

**"God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference."**

Please be assured of our commitment to welcoming your children back when it is safe to do so. We cannot wait to have them all back!

God Bless

Kelly Dunne  
Headteacher



## Stars of the Week

### School Leader board:

St Vincent de Paul	51,193
St Teresa	44,193
St Oscar Romero	36,789
St Clare	32,803
St Francis	27,445

### Class Leader boards:

<b>St Francis</b>	Kyleigh YR	3,669
	Theo Y1	2,871
	James Y1	2,470

<b>St Clare</b>	Harry Y3	3,319
	Lewis Y3	2,676
	Dheshawn Y2	2,466

<b>St VdPaul</b>	Kye Y3	6,054
	Charlie Y4	3,638
	Tyller Y4	3,573

<b>St Teresa</b>	Joseph Y5	6,576
	Ellie Y5	3,209
	Jack Y5	2,870

<b>St Oscar R</b>	Jack M Y6	5,232
	Jakub K Y6	3,449
	Jack G Y6	2,555

**We are all working extremely hard at our English and Maths skills in IXL.**

***Can you better your best?***

***Can you help move your class up the leader board?***

**Good luck!**

Live, learn and love in a caring Catholic community.

## #DevonVirtualGames Skipping Challenge

The #DevonVirtualGames has an exciting opportunity for all the family to get involved in a skipping challenge. If you don't have a skipping rope at home, don't worry—click on the link below to receive a maximum of 2 free skipping ropes per family delivered direct to your door. [Skipping Challenge Rope Incentive Form](#).

There will be a choice of a Gold, Silver or Bronze challenge that consist of different elements like Single Bounce, Double Bounce, Run, Slalom skip and Speed Skipping to complete in sequence. If you are not sure what these are, head over to [#DevonVirtualGames Skipping Tutorials](#) with Dan the skipping man. He makes it simple and super easy to follow.

The challenge opens on **Monday 1st February** and closes on **Friday 26th March 2021**. If you want to apply for ropes I would do it sooner rather than later because demand is high, and they may well run out. You will also receive an email with the full challenge details and how to record your results on our quick and easy survey monkey link to receive a certificate. [#DevonVirtualGames Full Details](#) Please join the conversations here on our Devon School Games Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/devonschoolgames>



### Ten:Ten resources

You may already be familiar with this resource—it is one of the resources that we use in school for our daily collective worship and classroom prayers. Children in school continue to have daily

worship and those at home have access to the relevant activities or reflections posted by their teachers. Please follow the links below for you to use as a family at home if you wish to access:

- Sunday Liturgy for families
- Daily Prayers for home
- Assembly Video for home

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/assemblies/assembly-2021-01-11/>

No username or password required to access.

**Next newsletter: Friday 12th February 2021**

All newsletters are available on the school website.

**EXPRESS YOURSELF**

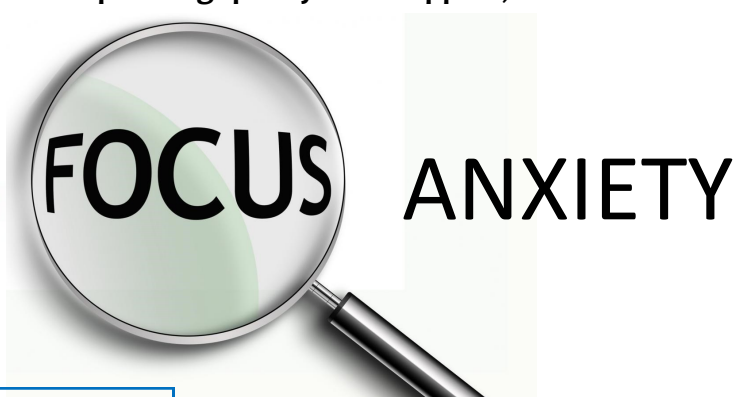
**Place2Be's**  
**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK**

**1-7 FEBRUARY 2021**

Learn more at  
[childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)



We are now in our 4th week of lockdown restrictions and we are still facing a lot of uncertainty. It is more important than ever to look after ourselves and others. If you are struggling try and talk to someone, it could be the most important conversation you have. We hope to signpost you to support, advice and ideas.



## FOR PARENTS

Anxiety is something everyone experiences at times. Feeling anxious is a natural reaction to some situations. However feelings of anxiety can be constant, overwhelming or out of proportion to the situation, this can affect your daily life. The NHS has some great tips and advice for anyone who suffers with or thinks they may have anxiety.

[Click here for advice for yourself.](#)

[How can I help my anxious child?](#)

## FOR STAFF

Some people feel a constant sense of anxiety all the time, without any distinct trigger. Teaching however, can often be a trigger for anxiety as teachers can find that they experience 'burn out' where they go through long periods of stress. Sometimes a stressful situation is obvious. Often the stress can be low-level and constant so that you don't notice it until you start to feel physical symptoms.

[Click here for advice](#)

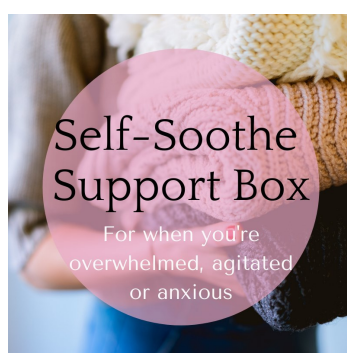
**YOUNGmINDS**

Click on the logo to access the Young Minds website.

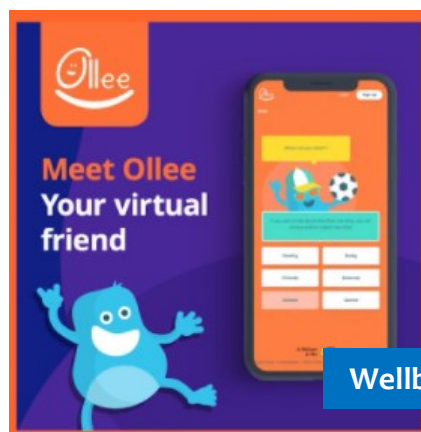
Parent Helpline

0808 802 5544 from 9:30am - 4pm, Mon - Fri.

Click the images for website links.



Meditation with children



Grounding exercises

Wellbeing support

Live, learn and love in a caring Catholic community.



### Free Mobile Data Allowances for Remote Learning

The Department for Education has a scheme in partnership with mobile networks to increase mobile data allowances to support remote learning. If you are eligible, you can obtain a data SIM card for a mobile device OR extra data allowance for FREE from your mobile network. You may be eligible for this scheme, depending on the following:

- You don't have access to a fixed broadband connection
- You cannot afford the additional data needed to access educational resources
- You have access to a mobile device that uses a participating network (most network providers are included)

If you are interested in this taking up this offer, which can in some instances provide a further 20GB of data or a data SIM card, we will apply on your behalf. Please contact Mrs Hobart in the school office [admin@sjna.uk](mailto:admin@sjna.uk) or 352559

### Testing for Primary School Staff

From this week, all staff working in school will be able to test themselves for Covid-19 twice-weekly at home, using lateral flow devices. Should there be any asymptomatic positive cases revealed by this testing, this may mean closure of 'bubbles'. Parents will be notified as soon as possible if their children need to stay at home and/or self-isolate.

### Half term break

The school is closed to all pupils whether in school or at home, for half term starting on Friday 12th February.

School opens for vulnerable children, and the children of key critical workers, on **Tuesday 23rd February**. Remote learning for the children at home will start again on this day.

### Parent Consultations

In the week before the spring half term, we would normally meet with parents. As we are unable to invite parents into school, class teachers will instead hold five minute telephone calls with parents of children in their class from Thursday 4th February.

Please book your five minute phone conversation slot via e-schools and the class teacher will phone you.

Please book your appointment by 5pm on Wednesday 3rd February. Any appointments booked after this will not automatically register on our system meaning that we will not be able to contact you.

Each phone call will last 5 minutes. If you need to talk to the teacher for any longer, you will be able to contact school in the normal way to arrange this at a later date.

The class teachers are all looking forward to speaking to you. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any concerns or questions.



Saints Southwest invite you to take part in their February Fitness challenge, running over either 7, 14 or 21 days.

The challenge is for the whole family and letters will be sent home today. The challenges are all about achieving 'Active Minutes'. Active minutes can be achieved in many ways, whichever suits your family best. Once you have completed your challenge send the scores into [bjones@saintssouthwest.co.uk](mailto:bjones@saintssouthwest.co.uk). They will send your virtual certificate to you. Have fun!

**St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Coombeshead Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 1PT**

Tel: 01626 352559 Email: [admin@sjna.uk](mailto:admin@sjna.uk)

Kelly Dunne: Headteacher

**St. Joseph's School is committed to safeguarding children.**

Designated Child Protection Officer: Kelly Dunne Deputy Child Protection Officer: Emma Wilson

Named Governor for Child Protection: Stephen Riedlinger