

If we really want to love, we must learn how to forgive.**Mother Theresa**

As we approach Valentine's Day, our thoughts might turn to the subject of love. It is interesting to note how Mother Theresa links love to forgiveness. Surely we should be slow to judge and quick to forgive? Mother Theresa must have been reflecting on the words of St Paul who writes in 1 Corinthians 13:; *'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

As a school, or indeed individuals, we don't always get things right. The same could also be said of our national institutions. We need to let go and forgive the past and get all the love we can. Love that always protects our most vulnerable children, gives hope to us as a community and always perseveres during these difficult times.

Thank you for your support and love.

Mr Lincoln, Mr Etherton and the School Staff Team

1. COMMUNICATION

- **Website:** please check the website for answers to any queries before contacting the office.
- **Emails:** use office@stnm.org.uk to contact the school with queries – please include your child's class.
- **Positive Test Email:** only use the email positivetest@stnm.org.uk to report a positive COVID test result.
- **School Office:** the office is currently closed. Please refer to the school website for information or email office@stnm.org.uk if you have any queries.
- **Calendar:** term dates, upcoming events etc. This can be filtered by year group to help you find dates relevant to you. Follow the link for instructions on how to [use](#) or [subscribe](#) to the calendar.
- **Letters/Emails sent home this week:** click on the link for past letters:
<http://www.stnicolasmary.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Letters+Sent+Home&pid=56>
 - Letter To All Children - 12th February

2. WORSHIP & ETHOS: *The Lord is my light and my salvation- whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life- of whom shall I be afraid? Psalms 27:1***3. INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **World Book Day - 4th March** Unfortunately this year we will not be able to do all of the parades, assemblies and activities we usually do, however, we have lots of fun sessions, resources and videos planned that the children can still access and enjoy. There will be more information on this closer to the day! Traditionally, on the actual day, we all get dressed up but this year we have made it **optional** for you. If you are at home, you could send in a photo of yourself in your costume and we will put it up for display.
- **Inset Days:** we have added the following Inset Days to the calendar:
 - Monday 23rd April
 - Friday 28th May
 - Friday 25th June
- **Truleigh Hill (Year 5):** Following the decision to book for our Year 6 children to attend Dalesdown this summer, we are very pleased to announce that we have also booked a date for our Year 5 children to have their overnight residential trip at Truleigh Hill YHA in June 2021. We will give more information about the trip to our Year 5 parents after half term.

4. **HALF TERM:** We fully understand the desire that many families will have to use the half term break to visit loved ones that they may not have seen for a long time. We do ask that you consider the government advice on this and also remember the knock-on impact this could have on our staff and children when we return after half term break.

5. HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

- **50 THINGS TO DO THIS HALF TERM** Dear Children, As you know, Badgers like to spend lots of time outside exploring and digging. Sometimes it is good to have a break from all our screens and get back to nature. Why don't you visit the National Trust <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/50-things-to-do> There's plenty of outdoor activities to do all year round, from rolling down a hill to creating some wild art. Many of these activities can be done at home and in your garden. Love Mr Badger
- **Perform Drama** are running various paid drama workshops online for all primary school aged children. More information about these courses can be found on their website <https://www.perform.org.uk/classes-courses/holiday-courses/fe2021>
- **Specsaver's Virtual Sussex Schools Games:** After the 1st week's Snow Fun challenges, we lie 15th out of 237 schools in Sussex and 1st of the Shoreham schools– a great effort by all, well done. This week's challenges on Bobsled finish today at midday and we hope to maintain our position. If you haven't yet tried the challenges go to www.sussexschoolgames.co.uk on Monday after 9.30 to see the half-term challenges on Ice Rink Sports. There you will find full explanations and a video explaining what to do and the link to submit your scores. They are designed to be fun and are not just for the children but adults too, so the whole family can challenge each other to find their Champion.
Congratulations to these children who beat Mr Butler's scores – Anna in Year 5 who had the highest score in our school; Child 7; Mio, Seth and Child 4 all in year 6. Can you beat the adults next week? Good luck and don't forget to submit your scores by Friday midday.

6. HOME LEARNING

- **Useful Links and Resources:** please do look at the Useful Links and Resources section on our Home Learning section of the school website for additional resources to use alongside Google Classroom. <http://www.stnicolasmmary.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Useful+Links+and+Resources&pid=1415>
- **Assigned Work:** As a school, we are concerned that there are some pupils who are not joining their class meets, uploading any work within the Google Classroom or submitting any evidence of pupil work of any other kind. Whilst we fully understand that some families may be learning in a different way, all children should be following the National Curriculum and as teachers it is our role to support them in this journey and assess their work and give feedback. Obviously we cannot do this if we do not have access to their work.
Unless agreed otherwise, pupils should be uploading their assigned tasks so that teachers can look at them and give feedback where appropriate. Please do contact your child's teacher if there are issues and we will do our best to help. Many thanks to all those pupils who are submitting work so diligently.
- **CBBC YouTube Channel** has had a revamp and now contains many of the children's favourite shows. It can be accessed at www.youtube.com/cbbc

7. **HEADS ON HEARTS:** This Wednesday the children were told about an exciting project organised by the Heads On, Mental Health Charity, where they were invited to display heart symbols in their windows in the run up to Valentine's Day, to thank people in their lives who have 'hearts of gold.' The charity would love to see some examples of hearts in windows and so if you would like to share these - please upload a picture into your Google Class stream. The charity has produced a number of helpful resources for families and these are shared at the end of the newsletter.

8. **FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS:** We are using the WSCC scheme to issue supermarket vouchers to parents and carers of children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) over the February Half Term under the terms of the Covid Winter Grant Scheme (this is the same system that was used over the Christmas holiday). In recognition of how financially challenging recent months have been for many families across the county, the value of vouchers has been increased from £15.00 to **£20.00** per FSM child for the February half term. Parents should receive their voucher via email today.

7. **CONGRATULATIONS RORY LISHER!** An enormous well done to Rory Lisher, in Year 3, who is now a published author of a children's book called The Awesome Space Race! Rory wrote the story in Lockdown 1, together with his grandmother, and designed the rocket and tree house which are shown in the illustrations. The book is so popular that he has received a letter from the Royal Family to say how much the Queen, Prince William, Kate and their children all enjoyed it! It has also been praised by the Blue Peter team! We are so proud of the fantastic writing skills which Rory has demonstrated, of his amazing creativity and the great teamwork he has shown with his Granny. His story is now going to be used with the Year 2 children in their space topic in the future. We are also very grateful to Rory and his family who have very kindly donated proceeds from the sale to the PTA. If you would like to find out more about the story - please visit: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/AWESOME-SPACE-RACE-Jules-Channer/dp/1839522232>



Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's Charity

Children's Mental Health Resources

[Home - e-wellbeing \(e-wellbeing.co.uk\)](http://e-wellbeing.co.uk)

e-wellbeing is a shared platform between Sussex Partnership and the YMCA Downslink Group specifically for young people. On the landing page young people can access a series of questions to get directed to the right help for them.

www.e-wellbeing.co.uk

[Resources for Schools - e-wellbeing \(e-wellbeing.co.uk\)](http://e-wellbeing.co.uk)

This is a dedicated section for schools and includes a section about "feelings about lockdown"

www.e-wellbeing.co.uk/schools

[Families Under Pressure | Maudsley Charity](http://maudsleycharity.org/familiesunderpressure)

NHS charity Maudsley Charity have produced this website to support Families Under Pressure.

www.maudsleycharity.org/familiesunderpressure

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