



# Shirley Juniors

## Weekly Communication

To contact any member of staff, please email [office@shirleyschools.co.uk](mailto:office@shirleyschools.co.uk) marked for the attention of the member of staff and your email will be forwarded.

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Please find attached to the school website the following;**

- PTFA Logo Competition

### Dates for your Diary

**Monday 1st February 2021 - Extra INSET DAY—School closed to pupils**

Dear parents and carers,

A massive well done from us for surviving a third week of lockdown. If you are a key worker with your child in school, thank you for performing the vital role that you do. If you are working from home and your child is doing remote learning, thank you for the support you are giving them. It is truly heartwarming for us to see the children's smiling faces on the big screens in the classrooms, and for children at home and children in school to be able to take part in lessons together. I am very proud of our committed and creative teachers for the ways in which they are using Google Classrooms to continue to provide such fantastic teaching – this week we have had freeze-frame drama, shared writing and live editing, to name just a few.



### **Small changes to remote learning**

We know there have been many teething issues, and hopefully these are easing now as everything becomes more familiar. Our focus so far has simply been to provide learning that can be accessed at home, and ensure everyone is able to access it, and we are confident that we are nearly there with that – the final step is the laptops provided by the DFE, which are now in school and being set up, so should be able to go out on Monday.

This lockdown is going to go on for another few weeks yet, though, and we want to ensure the learning we are providing is as high quality as possible. With this in mind, our focus for this coming week is going to be on ensuring children are engaging as much as possible with the live lessons and then with the work set from these, and that they are getting feedback on their key pieces of work.

To help with this, and to make expectations clearer, we are going to use our "practice" and "prove it" approach, familiar to the children from their maths learning, across all remote learning activities. Please see the following page for information.

### **Permission to be struggling**

We fully understand that having children at home doing remote learning is not easy for most of you. We wish we could have them all in school with us, and we know that, while the remote learning we are providing is of a high quality, it is in no way a replacement for actual classroom teaching.



Please know that it's OK to be struggling. It does not mean you are doing anything wrong. Know that you are your children's safe person and they are in their safe space, so they are going to let their feelings out with you in a way they generally do not with us at school – and they are likely to do this at all sorts of inconvenient times - in the middle of lessons, in the middle of independent work, while you are trying to work... They are likely to say "I can't do it" and "it's too hard", simply because they are anxious and it is so different trying to pretend to be in school when they are at home.

You are fabulous but you are not trained teachers, and we are not expecting you to be. You are also dealing with anxiety about loved ones, possibly grief from losing loved ones, and probably the pressures of your own work. This is, let's be honest, a very far from ideal situation! And in all of this, your family's mental health has to come first.

If you need to go out for some fresh air, or stop a lesson and come back to it later, or abandon it, or snuggle with your child(ren) with a hot chocolate for a bit, or stick them in front of some (very vaguely) educational TV or just a film for the afternoon – please know it's OK to do that. We are not expecting every child to do every piece of learning, it's just not realistic, and we know that some days will be better than others, and some children will adapt to this whole remote learning routine better than others. Basically, you are doing your best and that is all you can do.

For those of you in the trenches, I have included a set of light-hearted achievement stickers and a certificate that you can print out and award to yourself – for whatever reason you like.

In other news – having successfully got through the necessary red tape, the new playground equipment is finally being installed this week, and will be fully operational by the time we are able to reopen to all children!

Have a lovely weekend, and thank you for all the positive feedback you are sending our way, it is much appreciated!

Jo Tearle

Deputy Headteacher

## **What are your expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?**

Children will be encouraged to access and follow the timetables set by their teachers as closely as possible and in most part do this independently. We know that in some instances sharing devices, problems with internet access or sickness may impact this; in these instances children are able to access learning through the classroom using recordings. We ask that you notify teachers if this is the case.

Tasks will be set by teachers in Google Classroom following live or prerecorded teaching; they will be either 'practice' tasks or 'prove it' tasks:

-Practice tasks - allow children the opportunity to practice/reinforce a new skill or concept and these can be done with support from their teacher, peers or parents at home if needed. These tasks should be undertaken in the time provided after a lesson and children get as far as they can before handing learning in.

-Prove it tasks - these are an opportunity for children to show their teachers what they can do independently. These will be tasks on which teachers give feedback and next steps to children so they know how to improve for next time. These tasks will have a due date and are expected to be handed in for teachers to track.

## **How will you check whether my child is engaging with their work and how will I be informed if there are concerns?**

Daily registers at the beginning of the day are taken in 'Home Room' for both key worker bubbles and those remote learning. Children who are absent for these and are not handing in their tasks are contacted first by their class teacher or year group TA to check in, this is then escalated to SLT for children with continued lack of engagement.

Teachers track closely the 'Prove it' tasks; these pieces of work allow children to celebrate successful learning and challenge them to reflect and improve with next steps and targets. Weekly 'Marvellous Me' communication from class teachers to parents highlight successes for children in their home learning and challenges/targets for a child for the week ahead.

## **How will you assess my child's work and progress?**

Feedback can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual children. For example, whole-class feedback or quizzes marked automatically via digital platforms are also valid and effective methods, amongst many others. Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is as follows:

-Prove it tasks: using the marking code familiar to students in school, teachers will highlight successes in meeting objectives in green and highlight next steps or something to reflect on in pink.

-Practices: Feedback may take place at the point of learning whilst children undertake their answers with verbal comments, self checking techniques and peer support. The private comment feature within Google Classroom will allow the pupil and teacher to discuss to support effective learning.



**Please remember to be considerate of others when lining up in the queue**

**Please remember to wear a mask where possible unless you have a medical condition which exempts you.**



HM Government

**ARE YOU EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC ABUSE & NEED IMMEDIATE HELP? ASK FOR ANI**

**STEP 1** If a pharmacy has the **ASK FOR ANI** symbol on display, this means they are ready to help.

**STEP 2** Approach a member of staff and **ASK FOR ANI**.

**STEP 3** They will offer you a private space, provide a phone and ask if you want a 999 police response or to speak to a domestic abuse support helpline.

For further information  
VISIT: [GOV.UK/DOMESTIC-ABUSE](https://gov.uk/domestic-abuse)

Action Needed Immediately #YOUARENOTALONE

On Thursday 14 January, the Home Office has launched a [domestic abuse codeword scheme](#) in thousands of pharmacies across the UK. The Ask for ANI codeword scheme allows those at risk or suffering from domestic abuse to discreetly signal to pharmacy staff that they need help accessing support. A trained pharmacy worker will offer a private space where they can understand if the victim needs to speak to the police or would like help to access support services, such as a national or local domestic abuse helpline.

For more information, please visit [www.gov.uk/domestic-abuse](https://www.gov.uk/domestic-abuse)

All Boots stores:

Hobbs Pharmacy in Brune Health Centre, Gosport. Hants – PO13 0EW  
Hobbs Pharmacy, 22 Mengham Road, Hayling Island, Hants – PO11 9BH  
The Village Pharmacy, 2-4 Stubbington Green, Fareham, Hants – PO14 2JQ  
Shepherds Spring Pharmacy, Andover, Hampshire – SP10 5DE

# PTFA

## PTFA Logo!

In the chaos of Christmas we forgot to vote for the new PTFA logo! We thought we'd try again to give more people the chance to enter, and perhaps to fill any gaps in the home schooling schedule! If you entered last year, we still have your designs. Please see our letter for the template and drop any designs in the basket outside 1 Branksome Ave by Sun 21st Feb.

## FAMILY QUIZ!

Join us on Zoom on Fri 5th Feb at 6.15pm for our second virtual family quiz.

Just £5 per family for over 2 hours of fun!

The picture round will be shown from 6.15pm, followed by the next round at 6.30pm. We'll aim to finish at 8.30pm.

The family ticket includes 8 family-friendly quiz rounds and games.

Optional extras (just £1 per person playing) include a game of Higher or Lower and a thrilling virtual duck race where the winner keeps half the kitty for each game. You can either buy your tickets for these games in advance or on the night. See the event for more details.

Tickets available now at:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/sjs-ptfa/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=34255>

## NEW PLAYGROUND!

This is well under way and looking great so far. A few more weeks to go, but fingers crossed it'll be finished for the return to school!

## COMING SOON!

Bagstoschool - Collection planned for March

Valentine's day virtual balloon race! Flying from Paris - details soon.