



NEWS UPDATE – JANUARY 2021

MRS FOULGER WRITES...



I hope you are all keeping in there!

January is nearly over, the mornings are getting lighter, we have daffodils appearing on the bank outside my window... But it's tough and you are probably having a mixture of good days and days that are harder. We all are. All of us, whatever age and whatever situation we are in can only do our best; sometimes the bar may be set higher than others but hold on to the message in this quote,

'Done is better than perfect – because perfect is never done'.

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION!

CHANGE OF TERM DATES

Following the latest government updates this week, it is clear that we will not all be back in school before March 8th at the earliest, with the distinct possibility that it could be later. Thus, we are proposing to alter our published Term dates, either side of the Easter break. This will enable us to offer a longer Summer Term and provide more teaching hours when hopefully we will be back in our classrooms!

Therefore, Term dates will now be as follows:

Spring Term ends – Wednesday 24th March

Summer Term starts – Monday 19th April

Rainbow Club will now be run on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th March and Monday 29th, Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st March (booking details to follow)





**We have received a letter of thanks from
Major Emma Spencer from
New Addington SA. She said,**

*'Our gifts were an incredible show of love and
compassion in a year that has seen so much
hardship for so many'.*

*'This year, The Salvation Army in New
Addington was able to provide 170 families
with a food hamper and gifts for Christmas'.*

*'We cannot emphasise enough what it has
meant to have your support this year'.*

Well done Team St D's!

**Next week is Children's Mental
Health Week.**

**The theme is 'Express Yourself' –
there will be an assembly for
everyone to watch and in
classes, teachers will be
exploring the topic in an age
appropriate way.**

**If you would like to know more,
then please look at their website
where there are also some
useful activities for parents.**



We love to see all the great variety of work and activities you are sending in, showing us how you are using your time in so many fun and creative ways. I have enjoyed hearing from your teachers who like to share many of your special pieces of work and achievements with me and other members of staff. One of my favourite jobs at the moment is looking through your efforts and commenting on Teams and, in some cases, sending out a Head Teacher's Award!



Keep working hard everyone!

Non – Screen Day Review

Thank you to all of you who kindly responded to our questionnaire following our the non-screen days held across the school this week.

The comments have made for interesting and varied reading and have made a number of valid points for us to consider, both positive and negative. This, of course, was to be expected and very much in line with our understanding that every family situation is different. What is celebrated in one household poses a challenge in another. We do acknowledge this and will carefully consider all opinions and points of view when planning future events.

The overall results from 86 responses received are as follows:

Appreciation of Parents – 80% positive

Appreciation of Pupils – 91% positive

Range of Activities – 87% positive

As a generalisation, the less positive comments came from the parents of those in lower year groups and from working at home parents.

The most positive comments came mainly from the middle school, with Year 4 only recording one negative response!

I share a selection of the positive comments:

'It was great not to rush and take time to focus on activities and lots of fresh air and creativity'

'It was an enormous relief that we were released from the screen. Huge thank you!'

'It was a brilliant suggestion...'

'A brilliant initiative to break up the cycle of the week and so important to help mental well-being'

'We wish there could be one every week'

'It was very much needed and appreciated in our house'

'... felt a different kind of tired from a day of creativity and slept better for it'

'We had a lovely day ... especially enjoyed baking together'

'It made a difference to her attitude...'

And some of the less positive:

'I appreciate the attempt, but our work/homeschool schedule is hard enough...'

'We have got into a routine and the change seemed disruptive and unsettling'

'We are able to play with our child and do not need school to do this...'

'I'd have much preferred the children to have a normal school day'

'Unfortunately, non-screen day meant ... was more needy on me when I was working... this put strain on me as a parent'

'... found it difficult to find motivation'

'HEALTHY ME' DAY:

As previously advised, the final Friday before half-term (12th February) will be a 'Healthy Me' themed non-screen day for the whole school. We will be taking into account many of the points raised in your responses as we consider how to structure and plan suitable activities for each year group.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS:

Your class teacher will shortly be inviting you to sign up for a Parent Interview slot using 'Schoolcloud' as we did last term. This will provide you with an opportunity to discuss your child's progress as well as giving you the chance to air any concerns you may have.

SPORT AND FITNESS TRACKING:

Mr Hunter and the sports team have been very impressed with the amount of running, walking and cycling you have all been doing. Please remember to post your achievements on the sports channel in your Year group area or tag Mr Hunter in your post. All the results are being recorded and added together to contribute towards your House totals.



