



# Dewhurst St Mary Newsletter

Week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**SCHOOL CURRENTLY  
CLOSED FOR THE  
MAJORITY DUE TO  
LOCKDOWN...  
REMOTE LEARNING  
TAKING PLACE**

**PSHE whole school  
target last week was;  
'To stay motivated when  
doing something  
challenging'**

We would like to say well  
done to;

Rec – **Whole Class**

Year 1 – **Blake**

Year 2 – **Darcie S**

Year 3 – **Sophie T**

Year 4 – **Veronika**

Year 5 – **Maisieleigh**

Year 6 – **Marcus**

**This weeks target;  
'Keep trying even  
when it is difficult'  
let's see that  
perseverance this week!**

**JUST WOW!**

**Last week our Dojo  
communication had a  
whopping...**

**1,230 messages**

**2,590 photos and  
videos**

Year 6 Teams is in addition to  
this!

**Our School Value;  
Resilience**

'I have fought the good  
fight, I have finished the  
race, I have kept the  
faith'. 2 Timothy 4:7

## **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

Even though school is closed, if you, or someone in your household gets a positive Covid-19 result please still notify school by emailing [head@dewhurst.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@dewhurst.herts.sch.uk) with 'POSITIVE RESULT' as the subject heading. This instant communication helps us to support you as a family during lockdown. Food parcels can be arranged and a listening ear is always here.

Thank you for all your amazing support last week as we started our remote learning. Hopefully you will have noticed that the remote learning we have been able to offer during this lockdown has been enhanced. The teachers have worked exceptionally hard, working above and beyond their 'normal' duties in producing videos themselves to provide as much support for you and your child. These are personalised to your child's next learning steps and replicate what their learning would be if we were back in school.

Other schools have chosen different approaches. One approach, which we considered very carefully and decided against, was live streaming of lessons. We decided against this as we believe the delivery of live lessons puts a significant amount of pressure and stress on you as parents;

1. to be online at a certain time with some pupils missing the lesson
2. to ensure your child is engaged while the teacher is 'streaming' and to offer support to your child if something goes wrong
3. to manage the technology of a live stream
4. to ensure sufficient laptops/PC's/iPads are available to meet the multiple lessons, for multiple children, occurring at the same time.
5. to ensure you have sufficient broadband / mobile data to enable multiple streaming to happen when others are working in the household.

We believe the above is too much pressure and stress for many in our community. We also realise that working with live lessons is extremely time consuming and is susceptible to many interruptions and technical difficulties. Whilst the pre-recorded video making on our part is more difficult, it allows you a quick and easy way to share the learning with your child at a time suitable for your family.

We also recognise homes are not schools. We are not trying to replicate the school day, however we are ensuring we meet our statutory offer and ensuring your child continues their learning journey across the curriculum. Interestingly, a recent study by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) provides research-based advisements to educators, reaffirms our approach.

Every school is unique; we will all do things differently to meet the needs of our entire community. We will however, like many other schools signpost your child's learning to Oak Academy, the BBC and other programs/videos when appropriate.

What we are doing differently to some other schools is recording our own teaching input in a concise, condensed format with no interruptions for you to watch, pause and replay at a time which is convenient in your household. Furthermore, we are offering a daily collective worship and some 'Get Fit with Gary' sessions and other resources to supplement this.

A final point on remote learning - **only do what you can, the remote learning is to support your child's learning.** If it becomes stressful, challenging or a battle then re-adjust what you do to meet the needs of your child and your family. This could be when your own working commitments have concluded. **I do, however, urge you to allow an opportunity for your child to watch all the lessons and do as many of the activities as you can to maintain progress during this period of lockdown. Some families will complete all the tasks whilst others will do some. We are all doing our best!**

Our Class teachers are monitoring participation to ensure everyone can access the provision. Please message them if you are experiencing difficulty viewing the videos or resources and we can arrange for support. We have lent a large number of laptops to families who have no devices and can support you if you require additional internet data. Please request this by e-mailing [head@dewhurst.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@dewhurst.herts.sch.uk)

In summary, our remote learning aims for flexibility to undertake learning across the curriculum at a time appropriate for your family. Good luck this week!