

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Baby News**

This week I am going to start with some gloriously happy news. Miss Spearpoint, after teaching a lesson on Wednesday morning(!) went off to hospital and her little baby boy arrived at 1.10am this morning weighing 7lb 3oz. Mother and baby are doing well and I am sure you will join me and the whole school community in sending our very best wishes and congratulations.

### **Children's Mental Health Week**

From one wonderful member of staff to another, Miss Howard has been doing a lot of work around Mental Health and she, along with some other members of staff, are supporting and mentoring some of our students. Miss Howard has produced a video for parents and carers and I would urge you to take 15 minutes and watch it. I watched it as a teacher, a headteacher and a mother of teenagers – it is delivered with warmth and kindness and reminds us how we are all in this together, supporting your/our children and our students.

You will find the full-length version and the shorter clips on our website here:

<https://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/remote-learning/online-learning-support>

I would also like to thank Mrs Bruton for posting activities and links to videos and activities for Children's Mental Health Week this week. We hope they have been of some interest/use.

### **Our Remote Learning Offer**

Schools have to publish details of their remote learning offer on their websites. This is a link to ours here:

[https://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/downloads/policies/Remote\\_Learning\\_-\\_Jan\\_2021.pdf](https://www.stourvalleycommunityschool.org/downloads/policies/Remote_Learning_-_Jan_2021.pdf)

We continue to receive thank you messages and positive feedback about what we are offering. Thank you for taking the time to give feedback, it is much appreciated.

I do think that teachers and students alike will be pleased for a screen break and a week off at half term.

### **In the event of snow next week**

We have reviewed our severe weather procedures in light of our current situation and want to bring your attention to the following points:

- The school will use Schoolcomms to text and email all students and their parents who are coming into school each day to inform them that school will be closed.
- The information that the school is closed will be put on Facebook and students will receive a notification via the year group channels in Teams.
- If extreme weather is forecast then staff will make preparations to work from home in case school is open but they are unable to safely travel.
- If the school is closed, all teaching will be suspended – there will be no online lessons in the event of school closure.
- The school phone will remain on overnight answerphone.

### **Reporting Update for Spring Term**

**Year 7** – Tracking Reports are not being issued due to the wide variety of personal circumstances in which students are working. Parents' Evening will go ahead as planned on 25 February via Schoolcloud and log-in details to make appointments will be issued shortly.

**Year 8** – Tracking Reports are not being issued due to the wide variety of personal circumstances in which students are working. Parents' Evening will go ahead as planned on 25 March via Schoolcloud and log-in details to make appointments will be issued after half term.

**Year 9** – Full school reports have been issued today. The Options process will go ahead virtually again this year and details will be sent electronically during week beginning 8 March.

**Year 10** – Full school reports will be issued before the Easter holidays.

**Year 11** – Mock exam results have already been issued this term. Arrangements for the postponed Year 11 Parents' Evening will be confirmed once the DfE have published details of exams for summer 2021.

### **Free School Meals**

The FSM vouchers have arrived for half-term, the people collecting boxes will be given their voucher, the others will go in the post on Monday.

The school will be closed over February half term, as per a normal school holiday.

Those parents who are eligible for Free School Meals will receive a £15 voucher per child in the post for half term week that can be spent at Tesco, Sainsbury's and Morrisons.

### **Testing**

As we begin to think about when students might return to school, we also need to prepare to offer weekly testing of staff and students. It will not be mandatory, and we will be sending out consent forms to parents who want their children to be tested. More to follow on that.

More urgent, is finding volunteers to help us run an SVCS test centre. If you, or you know of anyone locally, would be prepared to support us in this offer, please do get in touch. Attached are details of some of the roles needed to set up mass testing. Volunteers will need to do a DBS check and also complete the online training associated with their role.

We would be looking for volunteers for Test Assistants, Processors, Registration Assistants and Results Recorders.

That's it for this week – I wish you all a good weekend and, if snow arrives as forecast, fun in the snow!

With kind regards