



St Augustine's Academy Newsletter

15th January 2021



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have been so proud of the way in which our school is engaging with Remote Learning. During the last week, we have received many positive comments from children and parents about how much they are enjoying using Google Classroom.

This week, Year 2 have been learning about the Great Fire of London. This wonderful art work was produced by some of our pupils learning at home.



As always, we miss seeing everyone but we think of you every day and hope it won't be too long before we are all back together again.

Stay safe and well everyone.

Amanda Howes – Headteacher

Commando Joe's



Commando Joe has been working with the school, 1 day a week, since September 2020. You will probably have seen him before and after school talking with families.

Commando Joe's provide Character Education and helps children (among other things) to develop resilience, build relationships and have a positive attitude towards learning. Commando Joe's is working with whole classes, groups of children and individuals at St Augustine's to help build essential skills.

Throughout lockdown, Commando Joe's is opening up their Parents Portal so that it can be used to support children at home. The link to the portal can be found below.

Commando Joe is missing you all and looking forward to seeing you again when lockdown is over.

Government and NHS Advice



- 01** Go to <https://commandojoes.co.uk/product/cjsfreehomelearning/>
- 02** Click on the subscription you want i.e 1 child, 2 children, 3 children etc.
- 03** Add to basket
Click **view basket**
- 04** Click **proceed** to checkout and **input your details**. Enjoy the portal!

CJS Education Services

'Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.' *Matthew 5:16*

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Value of the Half Term - Perseverance

Prayer for Perseverance

Lord, we offer a prayer for perseverance
In all of life's circumstances
Family life, work and in service of people
Help us persevere through all trials and tribulations.

Counting on Your strength we can do it,
In Your Power we can persevere through anything.
In Your Perfect timing and Providence
May we surrender our desires and wait in patience.

We pray that in all kinds of persecution in faith
In Your Holy name may we persevere in strength.
May our perseverance count us worthy,
As we complete the race for Your glory,
Amen!

Read the full prayer @ christianstt.com

SELF – Question of the Week



What things do we find tempting?

Prefix of the Week



Under



Under is from Old English and means 'less, lower or below'.

You find 'Under' as a prefix in many English words.

Underarm – Under the arm or in the armpit	Undercooked – Not cooked enough
Underground – Below the surface of the earth	Underline – To draw a line under a word or words
Understudy – An actor who can take over another part as needed	Underwear – Clothing worn next to the skin or under other clothing

School Jotter App

The School Jotter app, by Webanywhere, is the app that our school uses. It can be downloaded to Android or Apple devices from their online stores.



Our school newsletters are uploaded to the app on Fridays and you can also view our calendar. Please sign up today if you haven't already.

Childcare Bubbles



Department for Education



You may or not be aware that families can form a childcare bubble to allow parents to attend work.

Below you will find a link to the Government regarding this.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-childcare-bubble-with-another-household#what-a-childcare-bubble-is>

SEND Webinars for Parents and Carers

Yvonne Newbold talk: the emotions of being the parent of a SEND child

Yvonne Newbold will explore the emotions around being the parent of a SEND child. What are the triggers and how we are left feeling following interaction with other people? You will also have the opportunity to join Yvonne for a follow up discussion over lunch or supper the following week. Take this opportunity to put questions to Yvonne in person and discuss your issues with her and other parents and combat isolation.

- Webinar 10th Feb - Join us for two hours hosted by Yvonne Newbold and Carers in Bedfordshire, 8-10pm
- Lunch 17th Feb - Make yourself a sandwich and a drink and join us for a mid-day discussion, 12.30-2.00pm
- Drinks and Nibbles 18th Feb - For those of us that are busy in the day, an evening discussion following on from the webinar, 8.00-9.30pm

Link to register is [Yvonne Newbold Webinar 10 February \(jotform.com\)](https://www.jotform.com)

Additional Resources links

<https://resource-bank.scholastic.co.uk/content/FREE-Julia-Donaldson-and-Axel-Scheffler->

<https://www.specialneedsjungle.com/distance-education-resources-for-children-and-young-people-with-send/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/coronavirus-supporting-children-special-educational-needs-disabilities/>

Your ref:
Our ref:
Tel no:
Email:
Date: 8th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you know on Monday 4 January, the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, which has now come into effect. As part of this announcement it was made clear that vulnerable children and children of critical workers would be able to send their child to school if they need to.

It is clear, nationally and locally that this has been a real challenge this week. Schools have had a lot more children coming to school than happened in the Spring lockdown. Also, the definition of who is considered vulnerable by the Department for Education has been expanded which also creates extra pressure on schools.

Headteachers and school staff really want to accommodate every child, but sadly this just isn't possible in the light of the new Covid regulations. They are currently operating socially distanced teaching and learning, with enhanced safety procedures, reduced staffing capacity due to sickness and/or isolation and additional responsibilities such as implementing testing, managing remote learning and contact tracing processes.

The latest Government guidance published on the 7 January says: 'Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can'.

To try and support as many pupils and parents as possible, we are asking critical workers to think very carefully before sending your child to school. If you are able to keep your children at home, then please do so. We appreciate this is difficult and the work you do is critical to the Coronavirus response however, schools that find themselves at capacity will prioritise the following vulnerable children before critical workers:

- Children or young people with a Child Protection Plan, Looked After Children and children with Education, Health and Care Plans
- Children previously on a Child Protection Plan or previously Looked After
- Those with a special guardianship order

Central Bedfordshire Council

Priory House, Monks Walk
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Telephone 0300 300 8000
Email info@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

- Children with a Child in Need Plan

This doesn't mean there isn't a place for your child if you are a critical worker, schools will of course do everything they can to support critical workers, it is just that this simply may not be possible. Each school's capacity to take children will vary and will change on a day to day basis depending on availability of staff and the number of children attending. Please help by only requesting a place if you really need it.

The current guidance for children and young people who are deemed clinically extremely vulnerable is not to attend their school setting and to remain at home as much as possible. If your child is within this category, please liaise with your school who will continue to support you.

All children not attending school will be supported to remain at home through remote learning.

Remote learning

Parents should expect a sliding scale of activities for pupils to cover between two to five hours dependant on a pupils age. Some of this might be 'live' teaching, although schools may as part of their remote learning provision utilise any of the following:

- live teaching
or
- recorded lessons
- access national provision (Such as Oak Academy)
- assignment work

All of the above activities are valid as long as they fit with the learning scheme the school is seeking to follow.

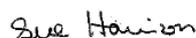
If you have any concerns about your child's access to ICT, or the remote learning content, we encourage you to discuss this with your Headteacher in the first instance.

Finally

We appreciate that this is a difficult time for all parents, particularly critical workers and would take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of Central Bedfordshire's schools and teachers.

It is important that you keep in touch with your child's school if you have any concerns – they are still here to help you. Together we all play our part to protect ourselves, those around us, protect the NHS and save lives.

Yours sincerely



Sue Harrison
Director of Children's Services

Central Bedfordshire Council

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PARENT SPACE

A FREE VIRTUAL SESSION FOR PARENTS

**TO BE HELD the last
Tuesday of every
Month**

1.30pm-2.30pm

Tuesday 26th January

Tuesday 23rd February

Tuesday 30th March

Tuesday 27th April

Tuesday 25th May

Tuesday 29th June

These monthly sessions offer opportunity to share Information and support, to ask questions and have discussions around the topics that matter to you as parents.

Tuesday 26th January's session will focus on:

Emotional Well-Being and Managing Anxieties

Supporting this event will be an Emotional Well Being Officer, Local Children's Centre's and Family Partners from the Early Help Team who will be available to share ideas and support.

Please click on the Eventbrite Link to register your interest and a few days before the session a Microsoft Teams Link will be sent to you by email. You will need to download Microsoft Teams for free to join the session.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parent-space-tickets-135695261179>

For further information please email katie.jeeves@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Support and Advice

The table below gives a whole range of support services that you can access for help and advice. Please use them. This is a really testing time for us all and we all need a little bit of help and support sometimes. Remember, if you feel you can't cope, you can also ring the school to speak to someone.

Service	Number	Website	Information
Child Line	0800 1111	https://www.childline.org.uk/	Child Line is a free, private and confidential service where young people can talk about anything. Support is available online, on the phone, anytime
Rev Ricky Dunstable Team Vicars	01582 528485	Contact – rickyturner@ntlworld.com PrayDunstable@gmail.com	Prayer and general help and support.
MIND	0300 300 0648	https://www.mind.org.uk/	Mind offers information and advice to people with mental health problems
Headspace		https://www.headspace.com/ App is available to download on the App store or Google Play	Mental health activities. Provides guided meditations, animations, articles and videos
Victim Support	0808 1689111	https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/	Free and confidential support for people affected by crime and traumatic events – regardless of whether you have reported the crime to the police or not
Salvation Army	01582 606031	https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/dunstable	The Samaritans offer a church and social services to support those in need
Kooth		https://kooth.com/	Kooth is an online and confidential service giving help and advice about emotional health to young people
Samaritans	116 123	https://www.samaritans.org/	Free and confidential support and advice
Anxiety UK	TextService: 07537 416 905 Infoline: 03444 775 774	https://www.anxietyuk.org.uk/	Anxiety UK relieve and support those living with anxiety and anxiety-based depression by providing information, support and understanding
Youngminds	Parents Helpline 0808 802 5544	https://youngminds.org.uk/	A UK charity fighting for children and young people's mental health
Signpost	0800 0282 887	https://www.signpostforbedfordshire.com/	Support for those affected by crime
NSPCC	0808 800 5000	https://www.nspcc.org.uk/	Help for adults concerned about a child
National Online Safety		https://nationaleducationgroup.cmail20.com/t/t-l-nkrhuy-fyhllutij-y/	Highly visual and informative Online Safety posters for parents, carers and children
Central Bedfordshire Council		https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers	Coronavirus – Information for Parents and Carers
Central Bedfordshire Children's Services	0300 300 8585 Out of hours: 0300 300 8123		If you think a child you know is being harmed or at risk of being harmed, please contact the Access and Referral Hub, who you can talk to about your concerns. All child protection calls are treated in confidence and you don't need to give your details

You can also find the latest information updates on the corona virus at:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>