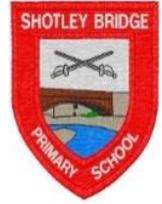




shutterstock.com · 1193297350



Spring Term Newsletter (Week 6)

February 12th 2021

Dear parents/carers

Half-term has arrived. For those of you at home who have been accessing your teaching and learning remotely since Christmas, it must feel like a strange sort of half-term holiday. For those of you who have been accessing in-school provision you will be looking forward to hanging up your uniforms for a week. Please do treat this as a holiday, if you can. Please do switch off your Teams and your SeeSaw and have a proper break. Get out for as much fresh air as possible. Enjoy the snow while it lasts.

Thank you to every parent and carer for your efforts since Christmas. This has not been the return to school we all hoped for and will have been incredibly challenging for all of you. You have clearly been doing an amazing job of juggling your commitments whilst providing for your children. The amount and quality of learning that SBPS children are sharing with their teachers is phenomenal. The engagement in remote learning, Teams registers, assemblies, catch-up sessions, live and recorded teaching has been incredibly high. Please see Mr Patterson's survey summary at the end of this newsletter. Thank you all. Keep it up boys and girls.

At present, English schools have been told nothing more about school reopening. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to reopen fully, safely, as soon as possible.

'Boris Johnson has told MPs that the government hopes to start reopening English schools on 8 March, depending on factors including [the rate of vaccination amongst priority groups](#). He said the government will tell teachers and parents when schools in England can reopen "as soon as we can". But he would not guarantee that this would be before the Easter holidays, due to begin before Good Friday on 2 April.'

Safety in school, LFTs. Staff have now been taking Lateral Flow Tests for nearly 3 weeks. Staff members self-test at home twice a week. So far, all tests have been negative and we have been so fortunate as to not have to close any year-groups at all this half term. Thank you so much to every staff member for agreeing to undertake this. (For those of you who know how unpleasant it is you will understand!) I certainly have to steel myself to do it each time, but I know it will help to keep my family, my colleagues and our SBPS families safe. If a staff member's LFT is positive then it is highly likely a year-group bubble will have to close. For those of you accessing on-site provision, please have back-up plans in case of this possibility.

Some very sad news. Three members of the extended SBPS family have recently died. Mrs Locker, our crossing patrol lady for many years before she retired has passed away. Mr Moore, a SBPS parent who gave his time and dedication to the governing bodies of Shotley Bridge Infant School and Shotley Bridge Junior School has also passed away. Margaret Robertson, Vice Chair of governors for many years has also passed away. Our thoughts and prayers go to families and loved ones at this very sad time.

For those of you who are able to take a break and have a rest in this coming week, please do enjoy yourselves. Thank you to every boy and girl for your positivity, humour, resilience, efforts etc... etc... in these strange times. We will see you all again in one week in-person or online.

Take care.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Bell

Summary of Parent Survey regarding SBPS Remote Learning

Question	Result
Which year group is your child in?	We had 137 responses, spread quite evenly across all year-groups
Is your child able to access the remote learning offered at SBPS?	Yes - 136. Only 1 response indicated they could not access and that was due to family circumstances.
What device is your child using to access the remote learning?	Laptop - 74 PC - 8 Tablet - 44 Phone - 9 Other - 2 (Xbox etc)
Have you been able to join any of the live teaching sessions, and/or have you accessed videos at a later time?	Yes - 130 No – 7 Those answering no were due to family circumstances; not knowing live teaching was taking place, which has now been addressed; and some instances of live teaching times clashing with siblings needing devices/working from home.
Are you satisfied with the amount of work your child receives?	Yes – 119 No – 18 Those answering no talked about parents' work commitments and being unable to fit in all the home learning; some wanted more, some wanted less. Those who want more can refer to the 'extras' guidance we have given.
<p>Do you have any comments about the Remote Learning offer at SBPS? We welcome both positive and constructive feedback.</p> <p>We had 113 comments left, see a small snippet below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Outstanding effort from all at shotley bridge, a massive thank you to all</i> • <i>I think it is very well organised and the live lessons have been really helpful as I find it helps my daughter concentrate more and makes her feel like she is in a bit of a school environment rather than feeling alone whilst I have to work too</i> • <i>I think considering the amount of time you had to plan and prepare remote learning. What is in place is really good.</i> • <i>Absolutely fantastic job by all staff. Can't fault anything that has been done. Well done to all involved, so glad my daughter is part of SBPS!</i> • <i>I have been so very impressed at the adaptability of SBPS staff in meeting the needs of their learners virtually.</i> • <i>Excellent provision! Nice range of activities and seesaw app works very well for showing work and receiving feedback. Live sessions are great and offer an opportunity to 'touch base' with staff</i> • <i>Live teaching sessions and teaching videos have been fantastic and really helped to engage my child and help her with understanding the tasks. I think the seesaw app is brilliant. I also think having the opportunity to contact the teacher on teams and seesaw (if needed) is great.</i> 	

We also had some constructive feedback regarding scheduling live meeting. To address this, all staff endeavour to schedule all their Teams meeting by a Friday for the following week, if this cannot be done, we aim to ensure a minimum of a couple of days of notice.