



# Forward March!

UN CONVENTION ARTICLE 17:

You have the right to get information that is important to your well-being, from radio, newspapers, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful, and help you find and understand the

*With God's help  
we will  
live kindly,  
love each other,  
learn and  
laugh together!*

## January Newsletter 2021

Dear Families of the March CE Primary School,

We are now into our third week of Google Classroom and another lockdown. This has been a massive learning curve for us all and we want to say a heartfelt thank you to our parents for all your understanding and hard work.

We appreciate that all home settings are not the same; some of you are key workers and continuing to go to your work, some of you are working from home, looking after younger children, some homes have access to only one device with more than one child needing to access it, some of you have children in other schools and so on. And..... that's not to mention the extra cooking, cleaning and washing that comes with the children being at home!!!

We have done our best to respond at very short notice to the lockdown and we thank you for your understanding with difficult decisions that have needed to be made.

The current situation aside, it has been great to see some of the children back in school and see other children online in Google Meets to hear their news. We are proud of the efforts that they are all making, thank you for your support and help with this.

In google classrooms, teachers have been putting up work for the whole week for English, Maths, Topic work, RE, Music, Science and French. This is to help parents who are not on Google Classroom every day and need to plan ahead. I have seen some wonderful videos/Photos of children reading poems, dressed in costumes, using pots and pans to play percussions and drawings for artwork.

**Well done to all the children for the efforts they are putting in online and in the classroom.**



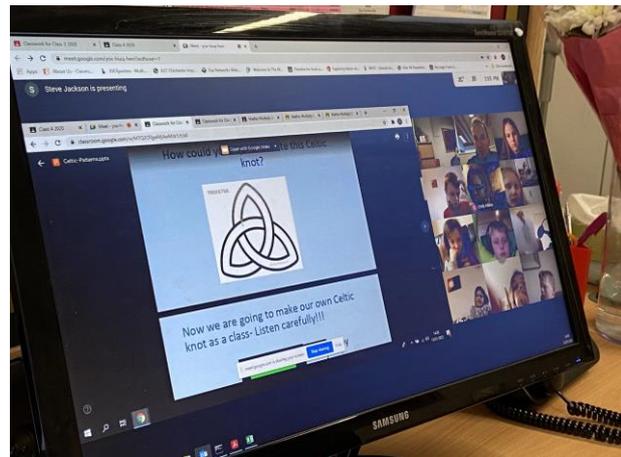
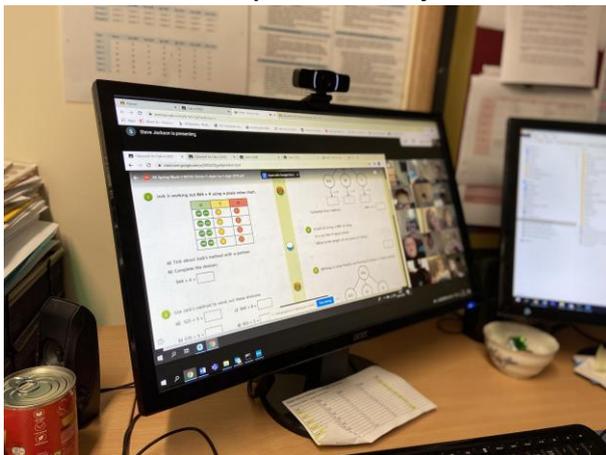
As you can imagine this current time can be challenging for our staff who are working extremely hard teaching online, teaching in the classroom and marking in the classroom and online too. We have had some lovely comments and feedback and this means the world, thank you!

We would be keen to have your feedback on how Google Classroom is working for you, anything you are finding difficult, how we can better support you and the children and also what you like about it too.

Later today, we will be putting a google questionnaire into each classroom and we would like to ask you to answer this for us and discuss it with your child as your opinions matter to us. The questionnaire will be live for the weekend and shut Monday morning.

We all want what is best for your child and our staff really appreciate and value the opportunity to work in partnership with every parent or carer in our school community.

Please, do complete this survey and don't hesitate to ask for help if required. We can improve our practice if we get constructive feedback. Very many thanks in anticipation for your efforts in this.



It has been really good to jump into some of the google meet teaching with different year groups.

### **What you can do to help your child with home learning and Google meetings**

We kindly ask for your support so that we can continue to provide high-quality education for your child during this time. We know that this is a learning experience for all of us at the moment

Younger children in particular may need support in accessing online materials and staying focused with their remote learning. We ask that you help them as much as you can.

At the same time, we don't expect you to watch your child all day, and we wouldn't expect parents/carers to get involved in remote lessons in place of our teachers. But, it would be really helpful if you can take an active role in your child's learning by asking them about their day and what they've learned.

Please do help your child by listening to them read and helping them with their spellings.

### **Our top tips for google meets and online learning:**

- Try to encourage your child to be ready and dressed for the start of the school day, and to keep to their timetable. The timetable is flexible in the day but routine is important
- The children need to be in a suitable area to learn, not still in bed.
- We ask all children to mute themselves on entry. Only use the chat function if asking the teacher a questions as it can be quite distracting for others if they are making unsuitable comments
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, and make it clear when the school day is over, to separate home and school life
- Plan breaks and exercise into the day to help keep your child active

*We do ask that when the meeting is finished that the children **DO NOT** return to the google meet room as this prevents teachers from returning to teach other lessons or meet students for further support.*



### **Non Screen Time Challenges**



Screen time can get too much at times and it is good to have time away from them. So, we thought we'd set you a challenge that is screen free and lots of fun.

Do please send us photos of your completion of activities. We would love to share these in the next newsletter.

Please see below for our screen time activities.

# Non-screen activities you can do at home

Pobble

25 ideas!

What can you do when there's no school and you're stuck at home? Here are 25 fun ideas to choose from.



**1** How many different words can you make from the letters in this sentence, below? Grab a pencil and paper and write a list!

'Learning from home is fun'

**2** Thank a community hero. Think of someone that helps you in some way and write a short letter to thank them.

Thanks!

**3** Get building! You could build a Lego model, a tower of playing cards or something else!



**4** Can you create your own secret code? You could use letters, numbers, pictures or something else! Can you get someone else to try and crack it?

**5** Start a nature diary. Look out of the window each day and keep note of what you see. Birds, flowers, changes in the weather, what else?

**6** Hold a photo session. Use a camera or a mobile phone to take some snaps. What will you photograph? Your pets or toys perhaps?

**7** Build a reading den. Find somewhere cosy, snuggle up and read your favourite book!



**8** Use an old sock to create a puppet. Can you put on a puppet show for someone?



**9** Make a list of all the electrical items in each room of your home. Can you come up with any ideas to use less electricity?

**10** Design and make a homemade board game and play it with your family.



**11** Do something kind for someone. Can you pay them a compliment, make them something or help them with a task?



**12** Can you create a story bag? Find a bag and collect items to go in it that relate to a well known story. If you can't find an item, you could draw a picture to include.

**13** List making! Write a list of things that make you happy, things you're grateful for or things you are good at.



**14** Design and make an obstacle course at home or in the garden. How fast can you complete it?



**15** Can you invent something new? Perhaps a gadget or something to help people? Draw a picture or write a description.



**16** Keep moving! Make up a dance routine to your favourite song.



**17** Write a play script. Can you act it out to other people?



**18** Read out loud to someone. Remember to read with expression.



**19** Write a song or rap about your favourite subject.



**20** Get sketching! Find a photograph or picture of a person, place or object and sketch it.



**21** Junk modelling! Collect and recycle materials such as yoghurt pots, toilet rolls and boxes and see what you can create with them.

**22** Draw a map of your local area and highlight interesting landmarks.



**23** Write a postcard to your teacher. Can you tell them what you like most about their class?

**24** Draw a view. Look out of your window and draw what you see.



**25** Get reading! What would you most like to learn about? Can you find out more about it in books? Can you find a new hobby?

Pobble.com – More writing. More progress.

***Watch out for the next challenges coming soon in 2 weeks!***

A wonderful opportunity for our singers out there!!!

West Sussex  
**MUSIC**

A watercolor illustration of a person singing, with their arms raised. The person is rendered in shades of red, orange, and green. Surrounding the person are numerous colorful splatters and dots in shades of blue, red, green, and brown, creating a vibrant, artistic background.

**Join!**

**West Sussex Youth Choirs Online**

rehearsals via Zoom on Saturdays as part of our  
*Virtual Music Centre*

**West Sussex Young Voices - 11-11.45am (Y5-Y8)**

**West Sussex Youth Choir - 1-2pm (Y9-Y13)**

West Sussex Youth Choirs are for the most talented young singers across the county. For more information and to apply contact Musical Director, Sarah Forbes:

[sarah.forbes@westsussexmusic.co.uk](mailto:sarah.forbes@westsussexmusic.co.uk)

Thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you would like to discuss any items from the newsletter in more detail, please do not hesitate to call the school , my door is always 'Open'.

***Mrs Nicky Metcalfe***

Head Teacher