

Dear Parents and Carers,

I think it is probably fair to say that everyone has found this week to be the greatest challenge so far. Remote learning seems to have taken its toll on parents, children and school staff alike. I think we all must remember that January is always a tough month anyway with poor weather, dark mornings and nights and very little daylight. Add into the mix another national lockdown, no immediate end to it all and children who are desperate for some normality, it makes for an exceptionally challenging time.

We understand and acknowledge everyone is finding these times hard. Everyone is ready to be back to normal - whatever the new normal will look like. Everyone is desperately trying to remain as upbeat and positive for others, whilst many are struggling inwardly themselves.

We recognise that we all have good days and bad days, and want to support you as much as we possibly can. If this means that you do not complete every piece of schoolwork, that is fine. If it means that you need an afternoon away from the computer screen, that is fine. We miss seeing you all daily- when we were able to reassure you face to face about the little things. We are all human ourselves and recognise the daily struggles that many of you are experiencing. We know expectations feel harder this time but want to reiterate that we do not want you to stress about the work your child is or isn't doing or if they are finding it tricky. You are first and foremost their parents - not their teachers. All children will be re-visiting work on their return, and we will have time, resources and interventions to ensure that we help every child. Concentrate on doing learning in small chunks -keep the basic numeracy and literacy skills fresh, plus do those things that you never quite find the time for - whether it is a board game, a geography or science project, a jigsaw, a history challenge, a nature walk or some baking. I hope, in time, we will all look back on the last 12 months and treasure those special things we did together as a family for our emotional wellbeing.

We do want to remind you, your children are complete superstars. They are producing amazing work for their teachers and we have included more examples from this week for you to share. We continue to get positive feedback from the teachers and love to hear from you how your children are getting on during this lockdown. Next week is Children's Mental Health Week, which will be mentioned later in the newsletter. As part of our focus on wellbeing, we want to focus on resilience. Resilience is a quality we probably all need in abundance at the minute! Interestingly, our resilience levels will all actually be different depending on our experiences and genetics. There is a fascinating video on resilience here, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJvDrT6N-mw> if you would like to learn more! We have seen over the last 12 months, that children are the most resilient of beings, which makes working with them such a pleasure. We have seen how they adapt to changes and new scenarios much more quickly than us grown-ups and we are always trying to think of ways we can keep that quality going after they move on to new things and new experiences, as part of our school values. If you have worries or concerns about your child, we are still here to support you pastorally, so feel free to either contact Mrs Brown or Mrs West, your child's class teacher or the school directly by ringing or emailing the office.

Thank you as always for your support and we will continue to do everything we can to ensure your child's education continues in a safe and caring environment.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Our parent consultations will take place virtually this term. These will be an opportunity to discuss how children are getting on at home/ Hub school. The meetings will be held on Tuesday 9th February and Thursday 11th February. Sign-up sheets for each class will be available from 4pm today on e-schools and can be accessed as before by using the parent login.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Children's Mental Health Week is taking place next week, on 1st-7th February 2021. This year's theme is 'Express Yourself'. We have decided, as part of Mental Health Week, to have Screen Free Friday, on Friday 5th February. There will be no online teaching sessions on this day and teachers will reschedule the sharing Zoom session. Staff have collated a range of activities for screen free Friday and learning that day will be focused on these. We have tried to include a range of things that can be accessed independently, as we are aware many of you are still working. We have created a grid of suggested activities, attached to this email, so you have time to plan your screen free day. This will also be used and sent out by teachers on the learning platform. Of course, having screen free time is not limited to Friday and we hope that many of these activities can be incorporated into the home learning next week and beyond. If anyone needs hard copies or resources to support screen free Friday, we will be creating packs to collect next week. Please let your class teacher or the school office know if this is something that would be useful to you.

ONLINE LEARNING REMINDERS

As the weeks go on, we are all becoming more proficient and adept in using our live streaming platforms for online learning. Teachers are giving feedback about how well the lessons are going and all feel there is more of a clear routine being established.

Our teaching sessions are limited and each minute is really valuable in working with children to explain the learning. We ask that children are prepared for the lessons and ready for the session, in order to gain the most from the time. If children can make sure they have equipment ready, that they have had a drink or a snack if needed, that they have been to the toilet before the session and that any distractions are moved away. Thank you.

SAM MUSIC LESSONS

Online weekly 30 minute one-to-one music lessons from home - learn to play the guitar, drum kit, piano / keyboard or to sing - Ofsted registered - Childcare Vouchers accepted - sammusicservice.com to enquire - Half-price taster lesson for £8.25!

SAM Music Service provides 30 minute one-to-one online music lessons, allowing your child the opportunity of learning to play the guitar, drum kit, piano / keyboard or to sing.

Lessons are on a weekly basis, and available until 8pm on weekdays, and 9am to 5pm on weekends, there are plenty of times to choose from to suit your weekly diary.

You are welcome to book a half-price one-off taster lesson for £8.25, to be sure your child enjoyed the experience and is keen to continue.

[Tax-Free Childcare](#) - SAM is Ofsted registered and accepts payment through the government's childcare voucher scheme, along with other childcare voucher providers, a great way to help reduce the price of lessons.

Lessons are affordable at £16.50 per 30 minute individual lesson, suitable for both children and adults.

30-Minute 1:1 Music Lessons

Guitar | Drums | Piano | Vocals

ONLINE



- Price:
- Half-price taster offer = £8.25!
- 1:1 lesson = £16.50
- We accept childcare vouchers

- Lessons online after school & weekends
- Booked half termly
- Inspirational tutors!
- Weekly lesson reports



Enquire today!

Web: www.sammusicservice.com

Email: lessons@sammusicservice.com

Tel: 0800 756 9411



To **enquire**, complete the short contact form on [SAM's website](https://www.sammusicservice.com), and they'll be in touch soon, or you can email lessons@sammusicservice.com, or call **0800 756 9411** to speak to one of their friendly team.

Find us on social platforms @sammusicservice

[sammusicservice.com](https://www.sammusicservice.com)
lessons@sammusicservice.com

With warm regards,
Mrs Rachel West and Mrs Vicki Brown



CLASS LEARNING

Beech Class

The children of Beech Class have been making sure they spend plenty of time outside this term - exploring, forest schooling and most importantly breathing in lots of healthy fresh air!

