

Autumn 2 2020 Newsletter



Dear parents and carers

We are coming to the end of a very different and challenging term with all our Covid restrictions however I would like to say how proud I am of everyone coming together and working hard to ensure that we can still offer the best service possible.

We recently had a visit from our Academy Improvement Partner, who is also an Ofsted inspector. He spent the day with us looking at teaching & learning, behaviour and how well the school is being led at all levels. He was very pleased and complimentary! ☺ This supports the senior Leaderships Teams judgements following our Teaching & Learning monitoring observations.

Attendance varies across the school and it does fluctuate as expected however we are still above 96%. Thank you to all of you who have been vigilant and following the Covid guidance if anyone in your family is showing symptoms. You are all playing your part in keeping us all safe and open.

Christmas Bubbles: Please see the [guidance](#) over Christmas. Please be safe to help us stay open.

Between 23 and 27 December:

- you can form an exclusive 'Christmas bubble' composed of people from no more than three households
- you can only be in one Christmas bubble
- you cannot change your Christmas bubble
- you can travel between tiers and UK nations for the purposes of meeting your Christmas bubble
- you can only meet your Christmas bubble in private homes or in your garden, places of worship, or public outdoor spaces
- you can continue to meet people who are not in your Christmas bubble outside your home according to the rules in the tier where you are staying
- you cannot meet someone in a private dwelling who is not part of your household or Christmas bubble

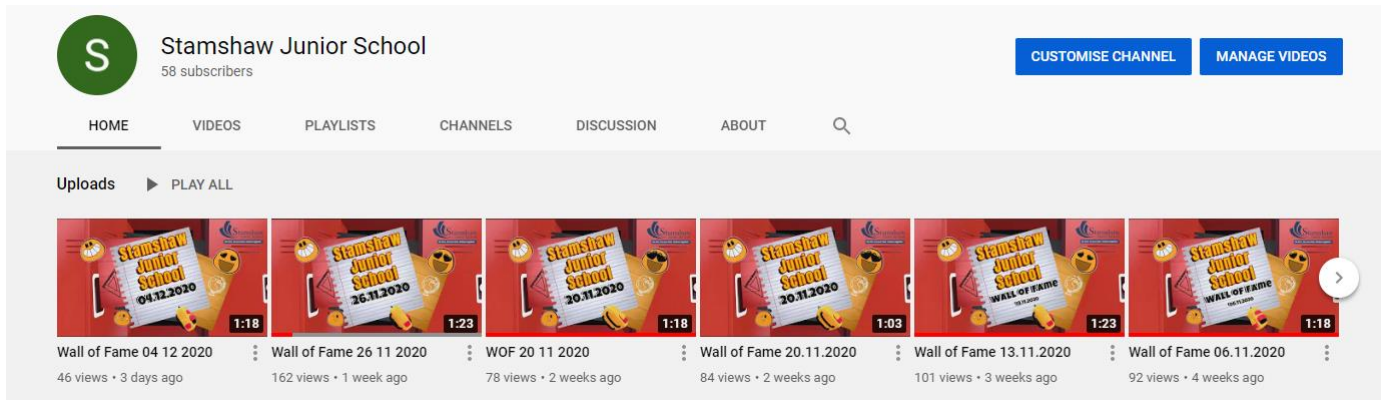


Remote Learning: As you may be aware, we have been improving our remote learning strategies in school. Thank you to those that completed the form informing us of your IT provision at home. It seems that the vast majority of children have access to either a laptop or tablet which is good news.



Remote learning includes: packs sent home, access to TEAMS for either assignments or live/pre-recorded learning, Bug Club, Times Tables Rockstars, Oak National Academy and we have just introduced My Maths. Teachers will also remote into TEAMS should they need to and teach.

Please take a look at our [website](#) to links to these sites and more. Please contact your teacher if you have misplaced your child's passwords.



Assemblies: We continue to have assemblies weekly via TEAMS which children do enjoy. They are really getting very accustomed to this new way of learning. Check out our [You Tube](#) page for celebration assemblies.

Also, please see the presentation some of our year 6 children made for [Remembrance Day](#) which can be found in 'News' on our website.

Year 2 Zoom Meetings: SLT had two open 'Zoom' meetings where current year 2 parents were able to remote in and meet the leadership team at SJS. We shared a Power Point discussing what we have on offer and an opportunity to ask questions.



Geese: Once again, we have been visited by a flock of Brent Geese which spend the days on our school field munching away in preparation for migration to somewhere warmer. We are very privileged that they have chosen SJS for their stop over.



Tipner West: The development of Tipner West is beginning to quickly move forward with the development of Whale Island which will have 4000 homes.



See the [link](#) or google Tipner West for the website by Portsmouth County Council.

Internet Legends: All the children took part in a live Internet Legends morning run by Google about the importance of internet safety. This is particularly more important than ever especially with the amount of time children are spending on the internet now.

Bike Ability: Year 5 took part in [Bikeability](#) for a week. This programme teaches the importance of road safety when riding a bike. At the end they are



a 'licence' to ride a bicycle on the road. No matter what the weather, the children and instructors were out there getting the job done.

Air Ambulance: The HIOW [Air Ambulance Service](#), who we raised money for last year, landed on our school field to help someone in need.

Once the emergency was under control, the pilot kindly took the time to show our Year 6 classes around the helicopter, the equipment inside and answered lots of questions before flying back to base.



Supporting Charities: This half term we supported two charities. Through your generosity we raised £313 for the Poppy Appeal as well as £189 for Children in Need. That is a total of £502! Wow!

We also raised 131kg of food for our local foodbank during Harvest week. That is the weight of a new born baby elephant!



Athlete Visit: Long Jump athlete, Ezekiel Ewulo, visited us to challenge the children to raise money for our school and athletes by completing a range of sponsored fitness challenges. Take a look at a [message](#) to us from Ezekiel on our Facebook Page. You raised over £800 with £230 being donated for our school council to use.

Pond update: As a result of the pandemic, we were unfortunately unable to complete 'Project Pond' which we were disappointed about considering the hard work some of our University students had put into the pond.

This year, we have decided not to continue with the pond due to unforeseen circumstances, but use the money that was raised to improve the extensive grounds for an outdoor reading area. This project is being undertaken by our current third year university students. Look out for more news in the future.

Year 3: Year 3 have been producing some amazing homework projects. They were tasked with creating their own Stone Age inspired art work, sculptures or information pages. They really wowed us with the variety of media they used, including: Lego, collage and junk modelling. What a fantastic effort!



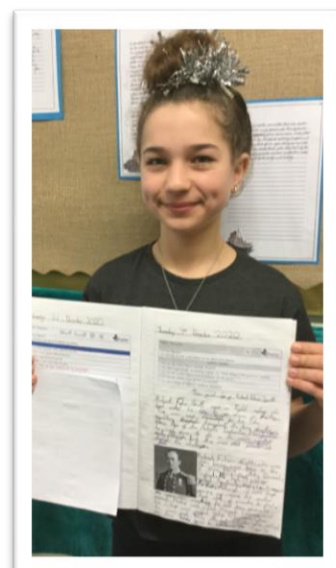
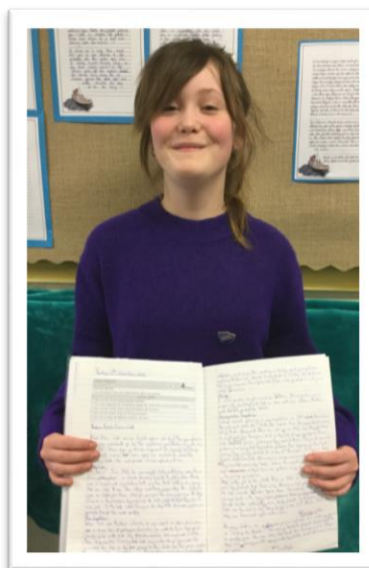
Year 4: This half term in Year 4, they have been learning about traders and raiders. They have been exploring Anglo-Saxon and Viking Britain. They have been able to write recounts of Viking attacks and designed their very own longboats! They even had a 'trip' to their version of Butser Ancient Farm to investigate what life was like in those times. In their homework, they were tasked to create fact-files about how these raiders arrived and what life was like for them at the time.



Year 5: In Year 5, this half term, they have been learning about [Ancient Egypt](#). They have written instructions on how to mummify a body, made Canopic Jars out of clay and designed their very own Egyptian Gods! For their homework project, they had to create an Ancient Egyptian themed piece of homework. These included, drawings, models, fact files and Power Point Presentations about the Ancient Egyptians. Miss Smout, Mrs Weatherston and Mr West were all very impressed.



Year 6: In Year 6, they have been focusing really hard on improving their writing and have done this through their topic, 'Frozen Kingdom'. They researched and took notes on Captain Robert Falcon Scott who went on a famous expedition to Antarctica. They decided to write a biography about him and then diary entries to document his journey. They had to learn to use emotive language to show how Scott felt and how to write formally when they wrote his biography. They found the switch between the two styles quite challenging but they were resilient and proud with their outcomes as were Mr Bosnic and Miss Bushell.



Dictionaries for year 6: Year 6 were very fortunate to each receive a personal dictionary from Portsmouth Rotary, which is traditionally done each year. Many thanks to David Jones for always remembering us!



Mrs Fountain: Mrs Fountain, our Finance Manager, has after 20 years at

Stamshaw Junior School decided to retire part time. However, before we all say good bye to her...she is not going anywhere!

She will be staying on for a little while longer however this will be as a part time finance assistant to support Mrs Glover, the business manager at the infant school who will also be our business manager. Really pleased you are staying on with us Mrs Fountain but do enjoy your very small part time retirement!

Year 6 Screening: On Wednesday 6th January the school nurse is in to measure height, weight etc. If you **DO NOT** want your child to be checked then please call 0300 1236629 or email snhs.portsmouthschoolnursingservice@nhs.net to opt out.

Attendance: At the time of writing this newsletter, our whole school attendance is 96.7% which is good. Well done to 4T for top attendance so far this year with 3S and 3P very close behind!

Attendance by year group								
3S	3P	3W	4T	4B	5W	5SW	6NB	6AB
98.4%	98.1%	97.9%	98.5%	95.1%	94.5%	96.1%	97.5%	95.3%

Christmas: We had a slightly different Christmas experience this year for obvious reasons however we did try our best to bring Christmas to SJS with our Christmas dinner, Christmas Jumper Day, a Christmas music video and a number of in class bubble Christmas activities.



Please have a look at our [website](#) and [Facebook Page](#) for a number of virtual Christmas activities that are available including 'Carols NOT at Fratton Park' and 'Portsmouth Carols for Care'.

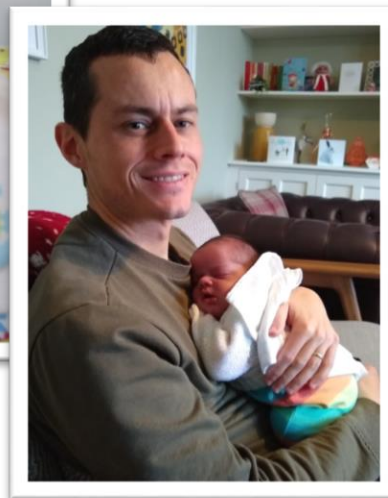
Also, please take a look at our [Christmas song](#) as well as the [Infant school's Nativity](#) which can be found on their website.

Local Governing Body: We have a joint governing body across both the junior and infant school chaired by Mrs Sherri Bailey. Please have a look at our [website](#) to find out more about her governors.

Vouchers: Mrs Fountain, in the office, has sent out the links to the emails of parents who are in receipt of free school meals to receive your £30 shopping vouchers. Please look out for them in the next few days. Click on the [Edenred website](#) for information.



Baby News: We would like to congratulate the Schillemore family on the birth of little Edwin Basil Schillemore born on Friday 11th December 2020. A fantastic Christmas present.



On behalf of all of us at SJS, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a better New Year!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Jones".

Mr Rob Jones
Headteacher

School reopens on Monday 4th January 2021