



Amongst all the pandemic news this week, it has been interesting to see the events unfolding in America and to witness the inauguration of President Biden and Vice President Harris.

In school, we hold our SJS values strong. We often speak of resilience, doing the right thing and being kind. Amanda Gorman, USA's National Youth Poet Laureate, shared her own powerful words in her inaugural poem on Wednesday, "There is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."

At the moment, we are asking our pupils to be incredibly brave. Whether they are learning at home, or at school, we are asking them to maintain our SJS values whilst learning in very different circumstances and, as usual, they are rising to the challenge. We are incredibly proud of their continued efforts, enthusiasm and determination, but please remember, if we can do anything to support you, or your child, please get in touch.

**SJS STARS OF THE WEEK**

- Y3AH: Priya Marshall
- Y4KT: Griffin Williams
- Y5CS: Brooke Millington
- Y6ER: Ryley Beresford
- Y3CP: Tommy Costello
- Y4RL: Frankie Brookes
- Y5DW: Erin Fox
- Y6MC: Mia Matthewman
- Y3RD: James Reed
- Y5HK: Mason Walker
- Y6CH: Scarlett Morgan

PE Stars: Lily-Rose Haigh and Archie Haigh

**READING AROUND THE WORLD**

**Y3 - LONDON**

Joel Couldwell  
 Nell Bowden-Lovell

**Y3 - PARIS**

Devon Taylor  
 Niamh Siddall

**Y4 - NAIROBI**

Faith Skelland

**WORD MILLIONAIRES**

We are proud to announce that Violet Merrywest has become the first of our Year 4 pupils to reach word millionaire status and Ewa Sobczak has become a MULTI-millionaire. Congratulations to both children for these phenomenal achievements!

**STAFF TESTING**

The Department for Education has recently announced that it will start a programme of asymptomatic COVID-19 testing in primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools. Along with the other protective measures and keeping the number of people in school to a minimum, testing will allow us to take further measures to ensure our school is as safe an environment as possible. Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly.

As soon as we take delivery of our testing kits, our staff will begin taking routine tests twice a week, 3-4 days apart. In the event of a routine test identifying an asymptomatic case, we will immediately inform parents of any children who will need to isolate for the next ten days.

## INCREASED REQUEST FOR ON-SITE PROVISION

We are continuing to receive requests for children of critical workers to attend on-site provision, leading to increasing numbers of children in school.

The guidance sets out that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can. **We must, therefore, ask again that children of critical workers are ONLY booked into school on the days that the critical worker is out at work AND there is no other option for a child to stay at home. Even when a parent is working from home, the guidance sets out that they should keep their children at home with them.**

Limiting attendance at schools and colleges helps to support the reduction in the overall number of social contacts in our communities, which is a vital intervention in the context of current very high transmission rates.

As a school, our first priority is to ensure vulnerable children attend school. We may soon find ourselves in a position where we then have to prioritise children whose parents are both critical worker before then making any remaining places available to children of one critical worker parent. We do not want to have to take this action, however, the increasing number of children requiring on-site provision may leave us no alternative.

Please remember, do not send your child to school because you can; please only book their place in school for days when there is no alternative.

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## A LETTER FROM SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Sheffield Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH  
[www.sheffield.gov.uk](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk)



Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s)

**Thank you for all that you are doing during this lockdown period to keep you, your children and families as safe as possible.** As you are all aware, we have entered a third lockdown and the single most important action we can all take is to stay at home. Government policy has significantly shifted and schools have been asked to remain open only for critical workers and vulnerable children. All of our schools are working extremely hard to deliver teaching and learning both to pupils at home and those attending on site and to keep children and adults who are on site as safe as possible.

**It is important that we keep the number of people in schools as low as possible** Having fewer people in schools is about reducing the overall number of contacts everyone has in the community, which is important to help reduce the pressure on the NHS. Hospital admissions are rising in Sheffield so it remains vital that we do all we can to keep numbers in school as low as possible.

**During this lockdown, children should stay at home where possible.** The government guidance during lockdown says that the children parents and carers who are **critical workers** may be eligible for a school place but this doesn't mean that all places should be taken up and it doesn't mean that there is an entitlement – the guidance says that critical worker parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can. **Please only use the offer of a school place when it is crucial for you to undertake your critical role.** If you can make an alternative arrangement, we ask you to consider this. Your child's school will speak to parents and carers to identify who needs to go to school and also may ask for evidence that your work is critical to the COVID-19 response.

We know that things are difficult at the moment and recognise the challenges you are facing supporting your child's learning and education at home. Thank you for all that you are doing.

Thank you for helping us keep numbers low in school and for following the lockdown restrictions. This will help reduce transmission of COVID-19 and allow us all to get back to enjoying more activities and time with our friends and families soon.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Abtissam Mohamed  
Labour Councillor for the Firth Park Ward  
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

John Macilwraith  
Executive Director  
People Services Portfolio

## PEN PAL PROJECT



Earlier this year, many pupils in Y5HK decided to take part in a local Pen Pal project. The project's aim is to connect young people and adults through letter writing, some of whom are isolated in the community and others who would just enjoy being part of the project. This week, children in Y5HK were very excited to hear that the first letters from their new pen pals are on the way to them. It is great news that the current restrictions have not prevented this exciting project from going ahead. In December, our pupils wrote letters to a member of the local community, so it was fantastic to see so many replies to our pupils' letters this week. Miss Killen has posted the replies to the children who have taken part in the project and they should be on their way to them very soon!

## CLASS ZOOMING

The feedback we are hearing from children, teaching staff and the many parents who have been in touch, is that the morning Zooms are turning out to be one of the highlights of their day! Children are enjoying staying connected with their classmates and teachers, and it is so helpful in these times where we need to 'stay at home' to have a clear start to the daily routine.

As we enter the fourth week of remote learning, we ask that parents remind their children of a few 'Zoom etiquettes'. These have all been discussed with children last term when we were preparing them for the potential of their bubble needing to learn remotely.

- Pupil behaviour should be in line with our normal high expectations for behaviour in school
- Pupils should be dressed and ready for learning by 9:30am
- Pupil should have had their breakfast before the start of the class Zoom
- Pupils should mute their microphone - teachers will ask children to unmute when necessary
- Pupils should edit their display name to the name their teacher addresses them in class
- Pupils are asked to leave any toys (or anything else which could be a distraction) out of reach for the duration of the Zoom

Thank you for your support with this. Video calls have very quickly become a well-established part of working-life for many people. Just as we nurture children to develop many life skills including manners, organisational skills and timekeeping skills, for example, we hope that this unusual time in their education can be put to good use to develop skills such as independent learning, video conferencing skills and online safety too.

## STOCKSBRIDGE LIBRARY

Stocksbridge Library is still open for an order and collect service. Orders can be requested by telephone (0114 273 4205) or by emailing: [stocksbridge.library@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:stocksbridge.library@sheffield.gov.uk).

Opening Times:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am until 4:30pm (Closed for lunch 12:30pm - 1:30pm)
- Saturdays from 10:30am until 4pm (Closed for lunch 12:30pm - 1:30pm)

## READING AT HOME

We are so impressed with the number of children who are quizzing from home and adding to their class word counts, so we thought it would help to share a few options for children to access reading books:

- Children should have their Myon login details in their diaries. There is a quiz on Accelerated Reader for every book on Myon.
- If children are reading their own books at home, they can check whether it is on Accelerated Reader as most popular/well-known books are. Children can also visit [arbookfind.co.uk](http://arbookfind.co.uk) to find the level of the book too.
- Details of library opening times are listed above.
- Oxford Owl also has a large library of ebooks although not all books are 'quizable'. Usernames and passwords are available from class teachers. This website is particularly good for lower ability readers.

## CHARITY APPEAL

One of our Y6 pupils, Lexie Titman, is having her hair cut for charity. Once hairdressers are permitted to open, she will be donating 11 inches of her long hair to the Little Princess Trust, who raise money to provide children and young people who have cancer and other conditions with real hair wigs.

If you are able to donate towards Lexie's fundraising efforts, please visit her [JustGiving page](#). Thank you to Lexie for such a wonderful act of kindness and also to those who are able to support her with a donation.

## SJS COVID-19 WEBPAGE

Our webpage ensures parents can access to the latest COVID information from school and Sheffield news and resources. Please visit <https://www.stocksbridge-jun.sheffield.sch.uk/covid-19-parent-information/>



HM Government



**Act like you've got it.**  
**Don't accidentally spread coronavirus.**



Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't have any symptoms, but can still pass it on. **And now there is a new strain of the virus which spreads even faster.**



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one topic of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# Online Safety Tips FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

The current generation are the first children to grow up in a world where digital devices are the norm. Recent studies have found that 88% of British 12-year-olds have a smartphone. Four out of ten 6-year-olds own a tablet. And almost two-thirds (64%) of children aged 8-11 use a games console. It's now rare to find a child who doesn't regularly use internet-enabled technology. Each new device means exciting new corners of the digital world to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

We've put together our top tips to help you guide your children in enjoying new digital devices safely and responsibly.



## 1. ALWAYS SET A PASSWORD



If your child's new device has a password protection feature, use it! It'll help to keep their private information safe and will deny others access to their device without permission. Your children's passwords should be something memorable to them – but something which other people can't guess (it's also a good idea for parents to write it down in case it gets forgotten!).

## 2. SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS



This really is an essential when your child gets a new device, so they're protected from the outset. Most phones, tablets and consoles allow you to customise their settings to determine which games your child can play, how they can communicate (and who with), what content they can access and so on. It will give you peace of mind that they can't unintentionally do something they shouldn't.

## 3. PAY ATTENTION TO AGE RATINGS



One of the first things children want to do with a new device is play games and explore apps. Before they download anything or install a new console game, check its age rating. Many popular games and apps have content that's not suitable for younger ages. The safest long-term solution is to adjust the device's settings so they can only download and use games and apps appropriate for their age.

## 4. KEEP NUMBERS AND DEVICES PRIVATE



Make sure your child understands that they should never share their phone number with someone they don't know or accept a friend request from them. They should also appreciate that it's a good idea to mainly keep their device out of sight, never lend it to a stranger, and never put it down somewhere that other people could steal it or take it to use without asking.

## 5. HAVE 'THE MONEY CONVERSATION'



Before your children start using their new device in earnest, talk to them about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through their device. Once they understand, you might want to agree on a spending limit and reassure them that they can come to you if they're uncertain, or if they have made a purchase by accident.

## 6. DISCOURAGE DEVICE DEPENDENCY



Of course, children who've just got a new device will naturally want to spend as much time on it as possible. But whether they're zapping bad guys, watching videos or connecting with friends, it's easy for them to get attached very quickly. Gently remind them that having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise are fun, too. And the device will still be there when they get back.

## 7. EXPLAIN SECURE WIFI NETWORKS



Your home WiFi is protected by a password that only your family knows, whereas public networks (like those in coffee shops, for example) can be accessed by anyone. It's important that your child grasps this difference because, if they're using a portable device on an unsecured network, then a hacker could access their personal information without them even knowing.

## 8. LIMIT SCREEN TIME



Using a device for too long, especially just before bed, can interfere with a child's sleep quality and reduce their concentration and overall enthusiasm. It might be helpful to agree on certain times of day when they don't use their device. Most devices' settings let you set a screen-time limit, helping your child to stay fresh and focused so they can perform well at school.

## 9. ONLY PAIR WITH KNOWN BLUETOOTH DEVICES



Your child may want to connect to another device via Bluetooth, so they can listen to music wirelessly or share pictures and videos with nearby friends. But if they use Bluetooth to link with a device that they don't know, they're at risk of a stranger being able to see their personal information or having someone transmit a virus onto their device.

## 10. TURN LOCATION SETTINGS OFF



It's safest to disable the device's location services (if it's a portable device) so your child doesn't inadvertently make other people aware of where they are. You can usually do this via the device's privacy control settings. Turning location settings off not only means your child's whereabouts can't be tracked by others, it also significantly extends battery life.

## 11. STAY AWARE OF THE SURROUNDINGS



It's common to see adults not looking where they're going while engrossed in their phone. Children are even more easily distracted. In some cases, young people have been hit by cars or cyclists because they were staring at their device and lost track of where they were. Remind your child that screens and walking don't mix. If they need to use their device, they should stop in a safe place first.

## 12. BE THERE IF THEY NEED TO TALK



Even when you've made a device as secure as you can, there's still a possibility of your child seeing something that bothers them, or someone they don't know attempting to contact them. If this happens, listen to their concerns, empathise and reassure them. Once they've explained what happened, you can decide if you should take further action like blocking or reporting another user.

