



NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING 12TH FEBRUARY 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope my final letter of this half term finds you and your families well. I think we are all exhausted and in need of a break. I hope you find time to relax as families over the half term break.

My challenge for the students over half term is to find activities that don't involve as much screen time. I would encourage them to find time for some exercise (following Government guidelines), find a book to get lost in, help out around the house, write letters/cards to elderly relatives (who will really appreciate them), play some board games together with the family....for more ideas you might find this article from the Guardian of interest:

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2021/feb/06/10-fun-ways-to-entertain-kids-half-term-cooking-crafting>

End of term message for the students

We are still thinking of you all in such difficult times. We cannot wait to see you all back in school. You may well have seen that the earliest date the Prime Minister has set, for a return of any students to school, is Monday, 8th March. We expect that his final plans will be announced on Monday 22nd February. In the meantime, think about the following:

Be Proud - Your resilience and positive attitude continues to amaze your teachers. We are proud of you, all your hard work and the efforts you have made to stay connected with your teachers.

Keep Going - Your hard work and effort is being recognised. The day-to-day work and contributions you make in your remote lessons is recognised by your teachers. No learning that you are doing will be wasted. It is helping your teachers to understand your progress and what support you will need when you return to the classroom.

Look Forward -Continue to aim high and work hard. This situation will come to an end soon and life will return to normal. We have to be patient and look forward to when we can come back together as a school community.

We recognise that this particular lockdown is proving very challenging for people in many different ways. You can help at home by being kind, honest and respectful.

Message from Miss Foster

Teachers are working hard in school and at home setting up online lessons. This means that teachers may be setting work on TEAMS or SMHW late at night (especially if they have young families). We would recommend that parents support students in setting up a 'Do Not Disturb' on their devices so they aren't disturbed by teachers setting work late in the evening. It will also support their wellbeing to ensure a good night's sleep.

Safeguarding Over Half Term

If you need to report a safeguarding concern over the half term break then please email safeguarding@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk. This account will be monitored daily.

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for safeguarding concerns can be reached by calling 01452 426565.

Locally, the Cheltenham Early Help Team are available on 01452 328160 and can provide advice and guidance if you are looking for support for your family.

Please also refer to the 'Where to find help if you need it' document which was sent out recently via Edulink and Show My Homework for details of other charities and agencies that can provide support.

Any urgent concern should be reported to the appropriate emergency service by calling 999

Laptops

No Child Left Behind has teamed up with Cheltenham Education Partnership, representing local secondary schools and IT Schools Africa. They want to ensure that all our children have the right IT equipment to learn at home and have the opportunity to benefit from digital technology so no child gets left behind. We are looking for working laptops, iPads and tablets with chargers that are no more than 7 years old. For more information please go to <https://nclbcheltenham.org.uk/laptops-for-learning> or you can donate via our Main Reception during school hours.

Business and Enterprise Department

During lockdown some of our Pittville students have become entrepreneurs! Whilst many in the news are talking about a 'lost generation' our young people are demonstrating their resilience/determination/commitment and embracing exciting opportunities open to them during this uncertain time. We would like to showcase some of our young entrepreneurs!

Mrs Sharkey-Esswood would love to hear from any other students who have been entrepreneurial throughout any of the lockdown periods. Please contact her on nesswood@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk

Our first entrepreneur is Sophia Maker - Year 9 -please check out her Facebook and Instagram accounts - Sophia's Candy-Land. I'm extremely proud of Sophia Maker who has a growing following on social media and is enjoying all that this journey throws at her. Please read the attached virtual Q and A that took place last week.

Start of Term

The first day of term is Monday, 22 February.

Thank you for your continued support.
Have a restful half term break.

Mr Gilpin
Headteacher