

## Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to say first and foremost, we do hope that you are all keeping safe and well at this time and secondly, thank you for your continued support of our schools and the measures we have needed to put in place over the last few weeks. It's clearly a difficult time for all our communities and we hope as soon as is safe to do so that we all return to a little more normality.



You'll know from the communication you have already had from schools the measures we have needed to put in place and the guidance that, wherever possible, our students are kept at home. In addition, arrangements are in place across our Trust to support key workers with their children, where necessary, and also support for vulnerable students and for families normally in receipt of free school meals. If you are still unsure, please do contact your child's school who will be able to offer further guidance and support.

For those parents and carers with students that were due to take examinations this year, we know they have been cancelled and schools are expecting guidance on how we now support this process shortly. Schools will of course, keep you posted about these developments.

For now, I hope that the work and support schools are providing for students at home is helpful and we have included some further links in this newsletter to education sites and activities that may be useful. It is not an ideal situation clearly, but our priority right now is for us all to keep ourselves safe and healthy so that we are ready to resume when things return to normality. However long this lasts, we will continue to support our young people, families and communities to the best of our ability.

Thank you again for your support and of course, if you have any concerns or queries about your child's health or safety over this period of time please do contact your school for advice if needed.

**Chris King**  
Chief Executive



Don't forget to check out our  
Twitter for the latest updates

@SevernAcademies



## This edition...

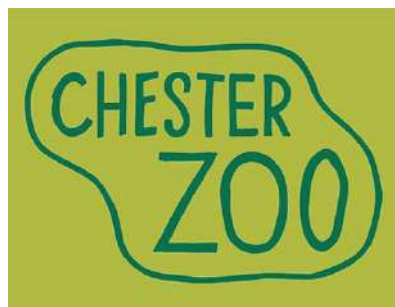
- Useful Resources – Pages 2-4, 6
- School News – Pages 2,5, 7-9, 11-14
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## Learning from Home

We'd like to take this opportunity to share some of the excellent home learning that has taken place in the past two weeks and also, some of the excellent resources which are available to your children.



The first resource we'd like to share with you is via **Chester Zoo's YouTube channel**. They have some up close and personal videos of their animals. These videos entail 'spot the baby elephant', 'surprise encounters', 'brunch with the giraffes' and 'breakfast time for the red pandas'. Lots of videos for you to dip in and out for children all ages to experience a trip to the zoo. To make use of this please click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/OfficialChesterZoo/videos>



The two pictures above feature **Wilden All Saints children** working hard at home, whether it be inside or outdoors in some of the glorious weather we have had, learning is learning. Well done all.





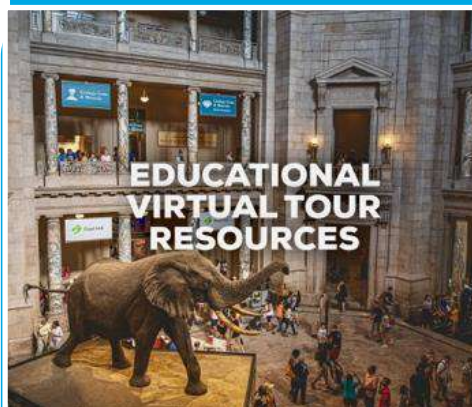
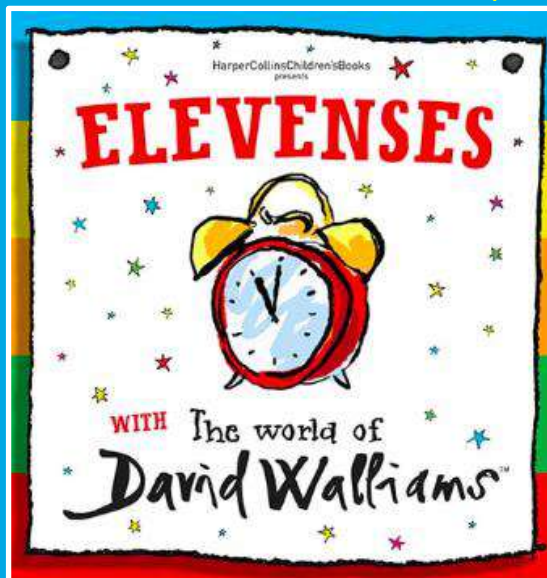


The third resource to share with you is free **virtual tours of world**. They can be found via "Family Days Tried and Tested". Follow this link [www.bit.ly/2wDXD0m](http://www.bit.ly/2wDXD0m) to view the site. You'll be able to virtually visit museums like the British Museum in London, Buckingham Palace and the NASA Mission Operations Room!

Another one can be found via a Facebook page called "Mr Moostashio's Eduverse" which you'll be able to access together with your child. Follow this link [www.bit.ly/3bBLFDe](http://www.bit.ly/3bBLFDe) to view the page. The page aims to bridge the gap between primary school, home and everything in between. museums which you can look at and learn from.

The next resource we'd like to share is every day at 11am, you can listen to one of **David Walliams' World's Worst Children stories**. This is an excellent opportunity to enjoy 20 minutes or so of hilarious stories.

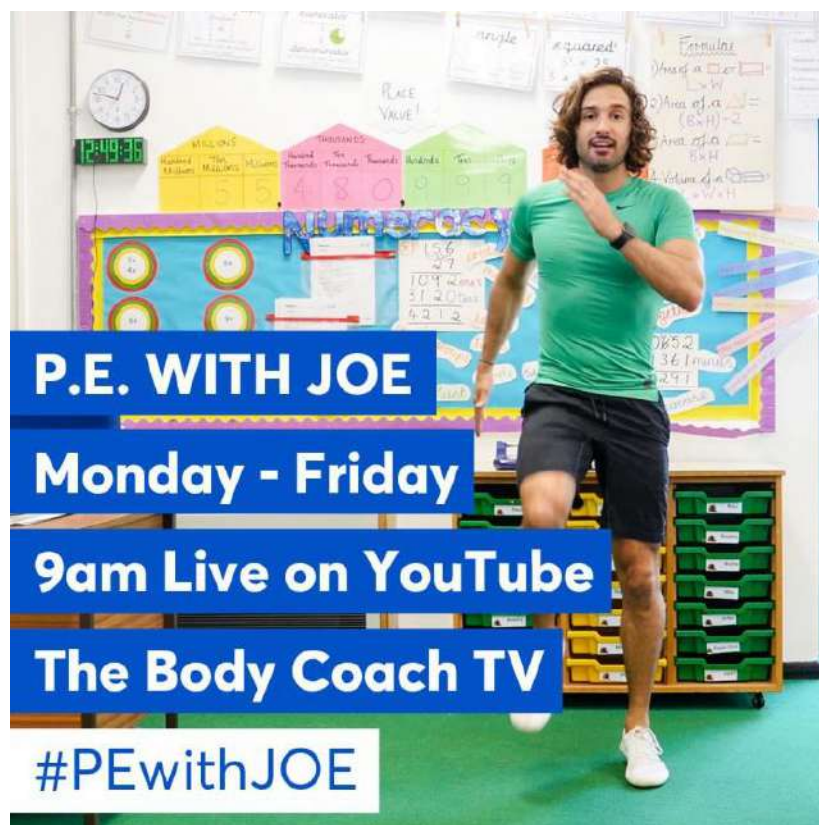
Click here for more information: [www.bit.ly/2R9F2jR](http://www.bit.ly/2R9F2jR)



The fourth resource we'd like to share with you is on the following dates the **International Space Station** will be visible in the sky for us all to see:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 20:46
- 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 21:36





Our fifth and most exciting resource is **PE with Joe**. Joe Wicks has a YouTube channel 'The Body Coach TV' where he is running live PE lessons on a daily basis at 9am. This is a great way for everyone, both children and adults, to remain fit in this period of uncertainty. More information can be found on Joe's YouTube channel, click here for more information: <https://www.youtube.com/thebodycoachtv>.

## Headteacher/Principal News

We have some news to share with you all regarding two of our Headteachers.

Firstly, we'd like to inform you that Ms Deakin – Principal at The Stourport High School & VI Form College, sadly won't be returning to the school and has stepped down at the end of March due to ill health. Mr Sheers will continue as Principal for the rest of this and the next academic year to ensure the schools stability within the current national circumstances we find ourselves in. We wish to thank Ms Deakin for all her hard work and wish her good luck and health for the future.

Secondly, we are delighted to inform you Mr James has been appointed as Headteacher at St Bartholomew's CE VC Primary School. As some of you may be aware, since September he was in an Acting Headteacher position. We'd like to further congratulate Mr James and look forward to keeping you up-to-date with their latest news.





Here's a message from students at **Stourport Primary Academy** to you all. This colourful message is displayed in the school's reception windows.

Also, here's 5 siblings who are showing their thanks to the NHS by decorating their own t-shirts. What a wonderful idea!



Here's some more of the fabulous work students at **Wilden All Saints** have completed whilst at home. They are preparing for Easter and designed their own eggs and bunnies!



Here's some of the fabulous work students at **Wolverley Sebright Primary Academy** have completed whilst at home. They are working on woodwork, rocks and also the importance of looking after pets.





# Free Daily Resources For Children



## PE with Joe Wicks On YouTube

Week days at 9am but you can visit any time on youtube to view the workout.



## Wildlife With with Steve Backshall On Facebook

Every day at 9:30am for answering all your wildlife, biology, conservation, geography and exploration questions.



## Science with Maddie Moate on YouTube

Weekdays 11am. Maddie & Greg chat about science and nature!



## Dance with Oti Mabuse On Facebook

Every day at 11.30am but children can view the class at any time.



## Maths With Carol Vorderman

Free access to the her maths website:  
[www.themathsfactor.com](http://www.themathsfactor.com)



## Music with Myleene Klass on YouTube

Twice a week. Next one Friday 27 March 10am, but can view any time.



## Storytime With David Walliams

Free story everyday at 11am on his website:  
[www.worldofdavidwalliams.com](http://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com)





### Young Enterprise Success

The SHS Young Enterprise team, which consists of Elina R, Jasmin S, Daniel K, Lucy P and Hayley S have been working hard to develop their business 'Bee Kind'.

On Saturday 14 March, they took their products to compete in the Company of the Year competition against 12 other schools where they were judged on their professionalism, business acumen, brand image and customer service skills. They were all outstanding, a real credit to SHS especially the way they conducted themselves when talking to the Mayor of Worcester. Following on from this they have also submitted a company report and presentation to Young Enterprise as part of the competition.

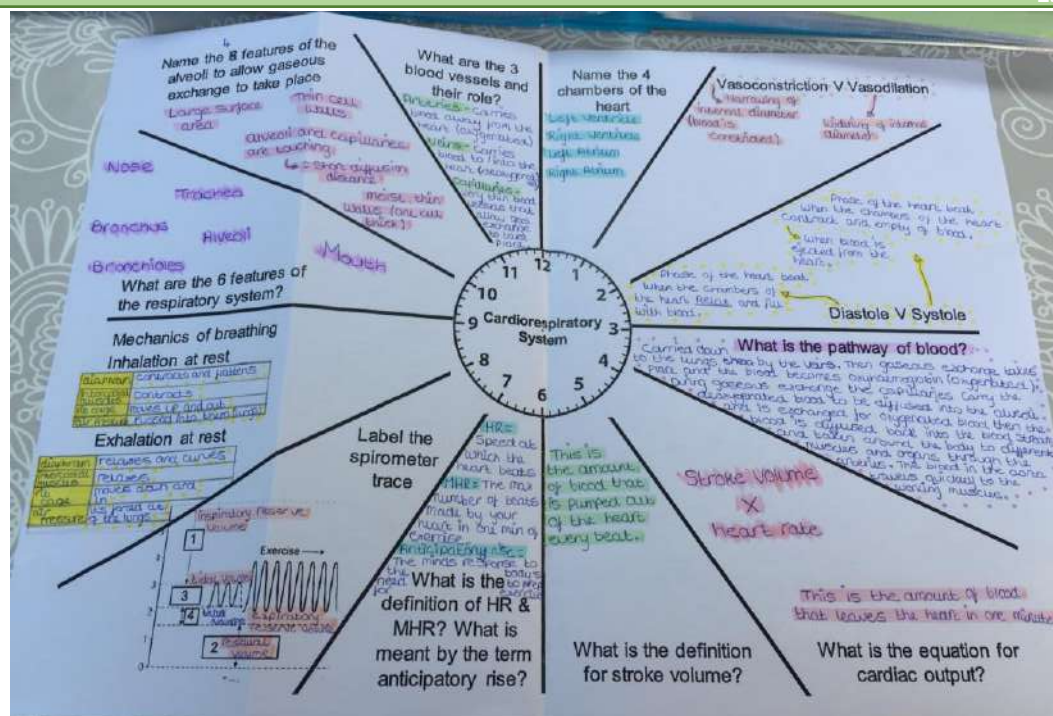
We are delighted that the students won the Award for best Marketing and out of all the schools entered from North Worcestershire, have been selected to go through to the County Final alongside Ecoverse from Bromsgrove School. This is an amazing achievement under extreme circumstances, when the goal posts kept changing due government announcements these students did not give up, they have worked hard and thoroughly deserve this recognition. Good luck in the next part of the competition!

### Transition

Mia W in Year 7 – SHS, has created this pizza box and her own packaging. Well done Mia!







## SHS's Mollie K's GCSE PE Revision Clocks

Mollie K has produced some beautiful revision clocks for GCSE PE. Well done to Mollie for going above and beyond on this task!



## Baxter College Received Silver Award for Mental Health Provision

Outstanding mental health and wellbeing provision has earned the school a prestigious silver award. The School Mental Health Award recognises the wide range of activities used to boost the wellbeing of pupils and staff, including counselling sessions, peer reading groups and staff forums.

Baxter College has also developed a positive relationship working group to benefit teaching and learning and liaises closely with external services and the NHS's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

Mr Carpenter said: "We are delighted to receive the silver award in recognition of the work being done to ensure our whole school community enjoys the benefits of good mental health. Chris King, Chief Executive praised Baxter College for its "fantastic work in promoting good mental health amongst students and staff".



Professor Damien Page, Dean of Leeds Beckett's Carnegie School of Education, said achieving this award is not just recognition of a whole-school approach to mental health, it's a recognition of the school's commitment to improving the life chances of children. We're truly proud to have worked with Baxter College in this vital work and look forward to further collaboration. Nationally, more than 600 schools have signed up to take part in the mental health award. Dean Johnstone, founder and CEO of Minds Ahead said this award shines a light on the excellent work schools are doing to promote mental health for their community of children and adults.







Here's another student at **Wolverley Sebright Primary Academy** who had great success on the 'Don't Panic – Kids Edition' on Free Radio on Tuesday 31 March. Ryan played the game very early on Tuesday morning and won! This is a game where there are categories which you have to answer questions based on a single letter, in Ryan's case he had the letter 'd' to answer questions within categories. Head over to Wolverley's twitter @Wolverley\_SAET to listen and see the winner himself!



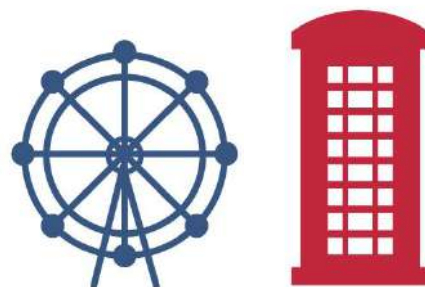
Here's some more students from **Wolverley Sebright Primary Academy** having lots of fun learning from home, embracing and creating artwork in the gardens.

Head over to Wolverley's twitter @Wolverley\_SAET to listen and see lots more children working hard!



## Parliamentary Visit – Primaries

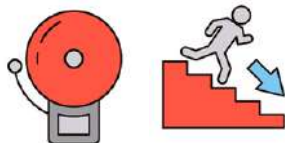
Budding politicians from our primary schools had lots to ask Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier in a question and answer session during a tour of the Houses of Parliament. 36 Year 6 pupils from our primary schools visited the House of Lords and the House of Commons, where they heard part of a debate on the coronavirus. They also took part in a debating workshop before meeting the Conservative MP for whom they had plenty of questions, including do you prefer Theresa May or Boris Johnson? Mr Garnier said it was a real delight to see so many pupils from our Trust schools come to Parliament. The engagement from the pupils was wonderful and it was a pleasure to meet with them and to answer their wide ranging and knowledgeable questions. The day trip to London also included a visit to Buckingham Palace and St James's Park for students from our 5 primaries also including our associate member, Far Forest Lea Memorial CE Primary. Mr King, Chief Executive, said the day was a fantastic experience which they will always remember, seeing and learning so much about our capital city and, in particular, developing their knowledge and understanding of the process of law-making and democracy.







On Thursday 5 March 2020, all our schools celebrated **World Book Day** with lots of stories mentioned throughout during the day. Our students were invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character and some of them even brought their favourite books to share with a friend. Here are students from Wilden All Saints (above), Hartlebury CE VC (top right) and Wolverley Sebright Primary Academy (right).



## Importance of Fire Safety

You should have working smoke alarms fitted on every level of your home. They give you vital time to 'get out, stay out and call 999' if ever you're unlucky enough to have a fire. And it's crucial that you test them regularly – we advise once a week.

With more people staying at home, we are asking everyone to be extra careful, to avoid fires happening in the first place...some top tips.

If you're at home because you're ill or self-isolating, please take extra care if you're cooking. Most house fires start in the kitchen. Always 'Watch what you heat'. Switch off any electrical items you're not using. If you use a charger, for a phone or laptop for example, don't leave it plugged in and switched on when you're asleep or not using it.

Candles should be secured safely in a proper holder and never left unattended. Same with a portable heater, remember not to put it close to things that could easily catch fire, like bedding, clothes, soft furnishings or curtains.

If you smoke, be extra vigilant. Keep matches and lighters away from children, and double check that your cigarette is properly extinguished. Try not to smoke if you've been drinking alcohol, and avoid smoking in bed or if you're feeling sleepy. If you can do so safely, smoke outdoors. Whenever possible, especially when you're asleep, keep all internal doors closed. This helps to stop fire spreading. Plan and practice an escape plan and make sure everyone in the house is aware. If a fire does happen, don't be tempted to tackle it yourself. Get out (closing doors as you go), stay out and call 999. Please share these messages with friends and family, and check in with those who may be older and more vulnerable. If you would like any further advice please visit [www.hwfire.org.uk](http://www.hwfire.org.uk) or call 0800 032 1155







### St Bartholomew's CE VC Primary Students Learn the Importance of Water Safety

Children at St Bartholomew's have been learning about water safety from two rescue charities following the floods which claimed the life of a much-loved family member of one of the pupils. Many of the families of children at the school were hit by the floods, but none more so than that of 7-year-old pupil Alexander M whose grandad's partner, Yvonne Booth, was swept away when her car became stuck in Tenbury last month.

Pupils looked at the work of West Mercia Search and Rescue and the Severn Area Rescue Association (SARA) and designed posters promoting water safety. Mr James, Headteacher, said "some pupils will also be completing the West Mercia Search and Rescue water safety course which covers drowning, where and how they occur, hazards in water and the powerful effect of water generally including rivers, lakes and ponds. It's vital for our children growing up in a town with such a large river and canal flowing through it that they understand the dangers of water and how to stay safe. Alexander's grandad has also offered to come and talk to our children about his experience at a later date, which is incredibly brave and thoughtful of him."







## SHS A-Level Progress is Best in Wyre Forest!

Latest figures reveal SHS's A-level results in 2019 topped the league table in Wyre Forest, with students making the best progress and the highest average grade across three A-levels.

Highlights included 100% pass rates at grades A\* to C for students in fine art, English literature, history, religious studies, geography, film studies, media studies and business studies. Government statistics show a year on year improvement in progress for the school's sixth form since 2017 following the opening of the £3.5 million state-of-the-art sixth form college.

Last summer's progress score of 0.08 was the best in Wyre Forest and also better than neighbouring Haybridge High School and Sixth Form, King Edward VI College, Stourbridge and Worcester Sixth Form College. Mr Sheers said "our sixth form college is a lively, stimulating and challenging learning environment in which our students are thriving. We have enjoyed some particularly outstanding results, and are extremely proud of our sixth formers, with ambitious students last year heading off to universities in pursuit of careers ranging from medicine and veterinary science to aeronautics.



Our BTEC students, choosing vocational courses, also achieved very well, with the average grade being a distinction. We were particularly delighted for our health and social care students, all of whom attained a distinction or distinction\*. Our teachers are dedicated to providing the best education for our students and we are looking forward to similar – if not even better - levels of success for our current year 13 this summer, who will, of course, receive calculated grades, based on their hard work rather than final exams."

## Hartlebury CE VC Sport Relief Success!

Friday 13 March saw Sport Relief success at Hartlebury CE VC! Everyone took part in a mile around the field and they raised an incredible £648! Well done everyone!







Throughout the month of March, staff and students at Baxter College have completed various sporting challenges to raise money for **Sport Relief**.

Student challenges:

- Complete as many miles as possible throughout the month of March.
- Take on a 24-hour exercise challenge.
- Complete the Sport Relief Mile.

Staff challenges:

- Cover 5932 miles (distance from Kidderminster to Tokyo 2020 Olympics).
- Take on a 24-hour exercise challenge.
- Walk up Mount Snowdon.

To donate or to see how they got on, please click here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/baxter-college-does-sport-relief-20202020>

### Wilden All Saints Earns National Recognition in BBC Wildlife Magazine

In the article, journalist Louise Tickle describes how reception children at the school cover 7 areas of the curriculum during their 90-minute lesson in Forest School. Specially trained teacher Mrs Mason spends every Friday morning with 30 4-and-5-year olds learning in an area of woodland. The article, which is in this month's edition, explains how they learn maths by counting sticks for the campfire science by cooking marshmallows, literacy by describing what they discover about nature and use natural materials for art and design. Mrs McDonald said "outdoor education is a fundamental part of our school's learning ethos, through which our children learn and thrive."





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