

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 2 months.

You'll know from what has been published nationally and information from schools that after the Whitsun break, Reception, Years 1 & 6 are having a phased return to school as part of national measures to return to a form of normality. For high schools, arrangements for those students sitting examinations next year will also start to change.

The message from us is that we will not increase the numbers of students or make phased returns if it is unsafe to do so. The Government have issued clear guidance to schools in terms of the measures that need to be put in place, and we have used these as a bare minimum in preparing our schools to support more students after half term. If you do have any questions or concerns please do speak to schools in the first instance, as we want to make sure that students, staff and families feel as safe as possible in this next phase.

In this edition, we have included further information on the free school meal procedure, VE Day celebrations and even more home learning from our students across the Trust.

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



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Free School Meal Fiasco!

For all those who rely on free school meals, we'd like to offer our support but also an explanation as to why the system is flawed.

Just before the Easter holidays, the Department for Education stepped in with a national voucher scheme through French-owned Edenred, which all schools are obliged to use.

Payments are made centrally from the DfE to the company, described as a "leading distributor" of meal vouchers, which reported profits of £270 million last year. But despite a major upgrade of its website over the first May bank holiday weekend, the system is still causing further hardship to both staff and families.

The system is slow, chunky and it's a very time-consuming process for our schools. This didn't stop Baxter College, Mr Carpenter taking matters into his own hands! After logging into the system to reveal he was 128,000th in the queue, he contacted our MP Mark Garnier, who lobbied the DfE on our behalf and came out to help staff deliver food parcels to families.

We are not alone in this as many schools nationally have not yet received their e-codes which are required to process the individual vouchers. Although staff at Baxter College worked tirelessly to ensure families were provided for over several weeks, unfortunately they have had to revert back to the voucher scheme for logistic reasons.

There are an estimated 1.3 million children who receive free school meals in England and it is estimated that Edenred may have up to 16 million vouchers to process.

Mr King, Chief Executive said all our schools are experiencing similar problems and it's our families who are suffering and staff who are taking the stress. I think the due diligence carried out before awarding this contract leaves some important questions unanswered. The system we were previously using worked fine, which makes this predicament even more frustrating. We are pressing the DfE to include other suppliers – such as the one we were using – in the central funding but the response at the moment is the same "they are aware of the issues and the system will be better next week". We live in hope.



VE Day



Wilden All Saints (pictured above) celebrated VE Day by having afternoon tea, decorating their homes and dressing up for the occasion.



Wolverley Sebright Primary Academy (pictured above and left) celebrated VE Day by having crown sandwiches and going on village walks.





St Bartholomew's children enjoyed a tea party to celebrate VE Day.



Staff at Stourport Primary Academy have created a VE Day video for the children to enjoy, it can be viewed either on their Instagram @stourprimary or via YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNBjvXk1588>





SHS students celebrated Earth Day on students of key workers who were in school made posters and friendship bracelets for **Earth Day** on Wednesday 22 May. This year marked the 50th anniversary since the notion began! Wolverley Sebright students pictured below and bottom left, also celebrated the occasion with exploring nature and designing posters.



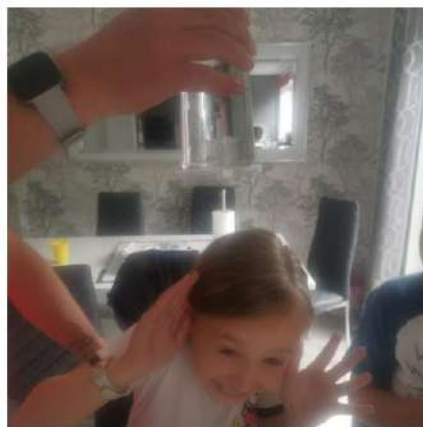
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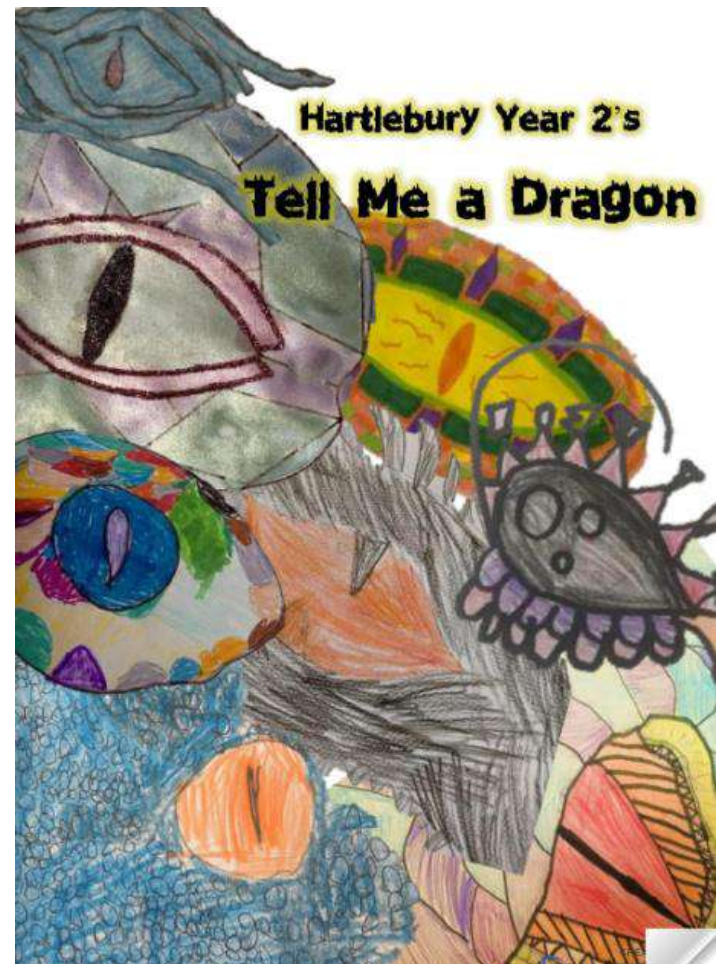
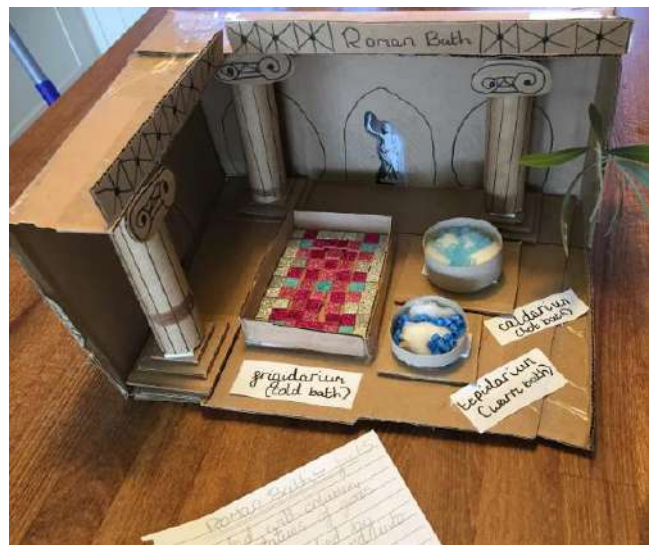
Wolverley Sebright students have been very busy learning from home! They've started new topics, built dens, gone on village walks, practised their handwriting and baked delicious goodies!





Wilden All Saints children have also been very busy at home. From music, dance, nature, more baking, Egyptians, online resources and lots more. Also, on the school's Twitter the staff have been reading short stories to the children, head over to @WildenAllSaints to find out more.





Hartlebury CE VC Primary School children have also been working very hard. From setting new personal bests, building colosseums, roman baths, den building whilst considering the different angles, amazing art which linked to their science topic, baking a toilet roll cake, they've all been very busy. Year 2 have created an amazing book of their own filled with their dragons based on author Jackie Morgan's 'Tell Me a Dragon' – Meet Year 2's Tell Me a Dragon! Click here for more information –

<https://www.flipbookpdf.net/web/site/ce2bea44144115f5f62180c569f0eff94af088a7202004.pdf.html#page/1>.

The children have also created a Where's Wally trail in the village which can be found on their website!

Both staff and students at Baxter College smash their **Sport Relief target!** It was thought the impact of the Coronavirus outbreak, initially with many students and staff self-isolating, the closure of the school on 20 March to most students and the cancellation of a staff sponsored climb of Mount Snowdon, would mean suspending the fundraiser.

But students and staff persevered, with the staff beating their 5,932-mile challenge, the distance from Kidderminster to Olympic Games host city Tokyo, reaching 7,042 miles, whilst students from years seven to 13 clocked up 11,608 miles. Mr Tansley said: "This was a fantastic effort and we have beaten our £1,000 target for Sport Relief, raising £1,204 – and there's still more money coming in.



Best wishes from the
Computing
department!
We can't wait to see
you all again when it
is safe.

Share any projects
you have been up to
with the hashtag -
#SHSComputing

We would love to see
what you have been
up to!





SHS's Young Enterprise Team **Bee Kind** won the Sustainability award and the Best Finance award at the Hereford and Worcestershire final! Well done team! Here are the team pictured from our previous newsletter.

SHS students have been very busy whilst learning from home. Year 9 students have made a video which can be viewed on their Twitter, highlighting all the things they are looking forward to. You can also watch it here –

<https://twitter.com/StourportHigh/status/1259418971092193281>

Many students have also been very busy baking some delicious goodies. To the left, Faye H Year 7, has put in an amazing effort with her **DT work**– cutting wood as well as assembling this fantastic piece of art. Spellbinding work!





St Bartholomew's children have been very busy this half term too! We also have the above message from the staff to share with your all. We know that Caleb has been drumming, Jai has been designing games, Kaiden has been making pizzas, Fiona has built a model design of a building after researching what the town is missing! Lots has happened this term!



relax Kids



We have found some information on the **Relax Kids** website on ways to manage children's anxiety. They have had so many requests from parents and teachers for tips and ideas and have created a [FREE CALM PACK](#) to help give reassurance and a feeling of calm and safety to help children and their families manage changes and navigate these uncertain times.

It is designed to help rest and relax jangled nervous systems with a calming meditation set of relaxation exercise cards, affirmation cards and some activities.

A student at Aston University has been creating a **French YouTube channel** for his friends who do not have access to their French resources. Aleksander would like to reach 1 million subscribers needs your help!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwySblarKsO0gNoFn1vTNuA?vie>

Resource

Read through the information below, all about Captain Tom Moore's incredible achievement. Can you think of any local heroes in your community?

Captain Tom's Challenge

Ahead of his 100th birthday celebration, war veteran Captain Tom Moore set himself the challenge of walking 100 laps of his garden to help raise money for the NHS.

His challenge has raised awareness all over the world and has led to many others setting their own similar challenges!

Captain Tom has also lifted the spirits of many during difficult circumstances.



How much has been raised?

Captain Tom originally aimed to raise £1000 but quickly passed his target to reach over £28 million for the NHS!

Captain Tom, who is originally from Keighley in West Yorkshire, has risen from nowhere to become a hero for many, all around the world!

"I say thank you very much indeed. I appreciate it because the object for which we're donating is so important and so necessary... I think you're all so kind and thoughtful contributing to this cause."
Captain Tom Moore



Captain Tom served in India and Myanmar during World War Two

How could we not mention the amazing **Captain Tom Moore**, who on his 100th birthday raised an astonishing amount of money. He will also be receiving a knighthood and will be Captain Sir Tom Moore! We know him as he stole the hearts of the nation by walking laps of his garden raising money for the NHS Charities Together. He was delighted to watch a RAF flyover in his garden, received a personalised birthday card from Her Majesty the Queen and from Prime Minister Boris Johnson. The fundraising page closed at midnight of his 100th birthday, totalling £32,794,701 from more than 1.5m supporters!





April Physical Activity Challenge

Throughout April, Hartlebury CE VC have been taking part in active challenges set by the Wyre Forest Schools Sports Partnership. Every photo or video submitted to the partnership via their social media platforms counted as a point for Hartlebury. As a result of all of the hard work, Hartlebury had the most posts/interactions over the last month and won £175 of equipment vouchers for schools. Well done everyone that took part!

Keep submitting your videos throughout May for our chance to win some more vouchers!

The Crab and the Lantern Fish

By Eleanor W

It is with great delight that Hartlebury CE's Year 4 student Eleanor has reached the final 50 in the annual BBC Radio 2, 500-word story competition!

Her story, The Crab and the Lantern Fish, has been recorded and is now available for all to hear on the BBC Radio 2 website. Click here to listen:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4zYKNNDd280hz0dPWWkYScM/the-crab-and-the-lantern-fish>

Since the competition was launched in 2011, over 930,000 stories have been entered but Eleanor now becomes our first finalist!! Good luck for the final on 12 June 2020.



Wilden All Saints' Video to Introduce Home Learning

Staff at Wilden All Saints CE Primary School have recorded a dance video to the Pharrell Williams hit Happy to help lift the spirits of pupils during lockdown. Mrs McDonald said: "We are one big family at Wilden and we are missing our wonderful children so much and know they will be missing school and all their friends too. It's hard for young children especially, to understand what's going on and not to feel anxious so we thought a funny video of us all dancing to the Happy song would put a smile on their faces."

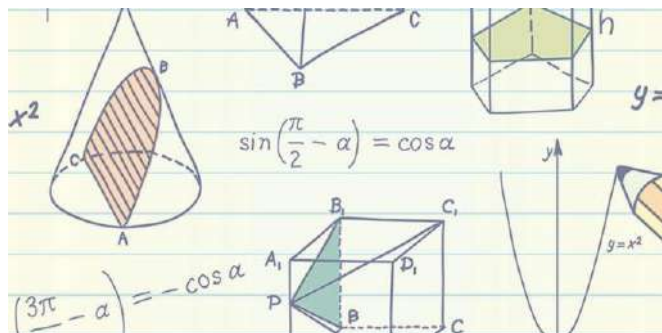
The staff also made a Happy Easter video of corny Easter jokes to amuse the children and their families. The video can be viewed here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18j03-rShAdxqZKKICV-hj7xVJzuZ-yWW/view>



ITV Kids Create Challenge

St Bartholomew's children created this beautiful entry for the ITV Kids Create challenge!



Maths Support

The Department for Education have shared a maths resource to help home learning. Mathematics Mastery can be found here: <https://t.co/PWvI8U2B58?amp=1>



Mental Health Awareness Week

This week is Mental Health Awareness Week and this year's theme is 'kindness'. Please take time to check in on others and take time for yourself too.



Year 10 **Community Ambassadors** from Stourport High School and Baxter College are so passionate about their Community Ambassador role that they have been using their social media accounts to promote and raise awareness of staying safe during Covid 19 whilst they are not in school. With the increase use of on-line education and using the internet for recreational purposes they have been offering advice on keeping safe whilst on-line, also suggesting ways of staying healthy, raising awareness of scams relating to Covid 19, providing details of mental health support links for young people to access and coping mechanisms for anxiety.

Prior to lockdown, all the Community Ambassadors attended a workshop run by Safer Wyre Forest at Wyre Forest District Council HQ to showcase their work, share best practices and work together exchanging ideas on future campaigns. Follow on campaigns included promoting support links for the LGBTQ+ community and a litter pick around Stourport's streets collecting 14 bags of litter in a couple of hours. There were two inspirational visits – one to Adams House (Sheltered Housing) to speak with residents about their role and compare modern day life to what life was like for the residents growing up. The other was to New College in Worcester, a residential school for the blind or visually impaired, they were given a tour of the school which gave them a better understanding of the barriers their pupils experience and the remarkable ways they overcome them.

To find out more you can follow both on Instagram @shs_community_ambassadors_19 and @baxter_community_ambassadors or take a quick look at their dedicated website:

www.communityambassadors.org.uk



TRAIN to TEACH with Stourport SCITT

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Why teach?

Teaching is a challenging yet extremely satisfying career. If you enjoy working with children and young people, have a passion to help them reach their potential in life and you would like to contribute to society, becoming a qualified teacher is an ideal profession for you. Currently, there is a growing demand for teachers in the UK, particularly within inner city schools so once you graduate, your employment prospects are excellent!

Why Stourport SCITT?

Stourport SCITT is the longest established School Centred Initial Teacher Training provider in Worcestershire. We offer bespoke school-led teacher training courses which give you the opportunity to learn 'on the job' in our network of schools across Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire. As a trainee teacher, you will work as part of the teaching team from day one, learning from experienced, practising colleagues and immediately put your new skills into practice whilst being fully immersed in the school environment.

Our school-led teacher training courses last a year and lead to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) plus a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) with 60 masters-level credits on successful completion. The masters credits are awarded by Birmingham City University (BCU). All training with BCU is held at our dedicated training centre in Stourport-on-Severn, so no additional travelling is needed.

What do our trainees think?



"Lovely support network. I was made to feel very welcome by all of the staff."



"Being in front of the class is the best feeling!"



"The course is so well organised and the professional mentors are really approachable and supportive!"



"The course offers dynamic & relevant experience of real life teaching!"



"I have thoroughly enjoyed my training with Stourport SCITT & feel fully prepared to face the challenge of my first year with my own class!"