

15 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

And so another week has slipped by. I hope this email finds you all well.

Engagement with Teams and online learning

Students continue to impress their teachers with their prompt arrival to lessons, willingness to engage and general enthusiasm for learning. SVCS staff are learning new things themselves every day about how to deliver their lessons online and we are all still enjoying a sense of working together and achieving together with our student body. A growing number of staff are now also using the break-out rooms feature to allow some students to be given additional support alongside the lesson.

We are monitoring student attendance to lessons closely and calling home every day for any students who aren't logging on. Please do remind your children that they do need to be logged onto Teams for their lessons, even if they are completing work offline. We download registers from Teams that show when children log on and off to generate our attendance information.

In the event of snow

Whilst some snow may be forecast for the weekend, there isn't currently any disruptive snow forecast for next week. In case there is heavy snow in the coming weeks, we have reviewed our severe weather procedures in light of our current situation and want to bring your attention to the following points:

- The school will use Schoolcomms to text and email all students and their parents who are coming into school each day to inform them that school will be closed.
- The information that the school is closed will be put on Facebook and students will receive a notification via the year group channels in Teams.
- If extreme weather is forecast then staff will make preparations to work from home in case school is open but they are unable to safely travel.
- If the school is closed, all teaching will be suspended – there will be no online lessons in the event of school closure.
- The school phone will remain on overnight answerphone.

February Half Term

The school will be closed over February half term, as per a normal school holiday.

Those parents who are eligible for Free School Meals will receive a £15 voucher per child in the post for that week that can be spent at Tesco, Sainsbury's, Morrisons, Waitrose and hopefully by then, Aldi.

Kooth

You may hear your child mention this week that they have been made aware in school of a service called Kooth. Kooth is a free, anonymous and safe online mental wellbeing community for young people in our local area. On Kooth you can:

- chat in confidence to counsellors (up to 10pm each night, 365 days per year).
- read articles written by young people.
- get support from the Kooth community.
- keep a daily journal.

Whilst your child may not need or use the service, we are encouraging our students to look after their wellbeing by telling them about the site and what it has to offer.



Kooth is easily accessible and young people can sign up or login into the service by following this link: <https://www.kooth.com/> If you have any questions or would like to discuss what Kooth can offer, you can speak with a Kooth team member by emailing **parents@kooth.com**

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns and to let us know when things are going well.

With kind regards

Rachel Kelly
Headteacher

