



# THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P E McCullagh BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Peaks Hill  
Purley  
Surrey  
CR8 3YP

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

The past few months have been challenging to say the least and we look forward to sharing our full re-opening plans next week, along with information relating to Year 11 and 13 examination results. We require consent from you regarding lateral flow testing and we would ask that you complete the consent form, which is available via Edulink, by **3:30pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**. There is currently some information available on our website.

We appreciate you may have numerous concerns surrounding your son's wellbeing and academic progress at the moment. One way that has been scientifically proven to aid students' mental health and academic ability is through regular reading. That is why we are introducing a number of new reading initiatives this term, to help to spark a joy of reading and create a regular reading routine for all of our students.

## JFS Digital Library Services

As our Learning Resource Centre at school remains closed, we are proud to be launching two virtual reading resources: The [JFS Virtual Library](#) and [MyOn](#) (click the hyperlinks for access). Both offer access to a huge range of fiction and non-fiction PDFs and audiobooks. Our virtual library contains links to reading lists, competitions and a questionnaire that your son can fill out if he is not sure what to read next. MyOn even has an 'audio' option for a large number of the books so that your son can listen as he reads. Sticky notes can be used to make notes on themes or ideas, plus there is a dictionary option to look up words that are not quite understood. Both can be accessed on a mobile phone or through a tablet or PC.

## 'Words on Wheels' Initiative

Following the success of last half term's 'Workbooks on Wheels', next Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (World Book Day), the Senior Leadership Team will transform the minibuses into portable libraries for your sons to visit in the local area. Please do come along to pick up a new book, do a book swap or even to donate some books you might no longer need. Every student who comes along will receive a raffle ticket and be entered into a draw to **win a Kindle Fire**. If that is not enough motivation, then SLT will be dressing up for the occasion as their favourite literary characters – come find out who is dressed as the Cowardly Lion or Tinkerbell!

The minibuses will be at the following locations between **2pm and 3:15pm on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March**:

<b>BUS 1</b>	<b>ROUTE A</b>	<b>TESCO CAR PARK, PURLEY ROAD, PURLEY CR8 2HA</b>
	STAFF	Mr Dawkins, Mr McCullagh, Miss Smith and Mr Woolford
<b>BUS 2</b>	<b>ROUTE B</b>	<b>MORRISON CAR PARK, FIVE WAYS, CROYDON CR0 4RZ</b>
	STAFF	Mr Dean, Mr Evans, Mr Mawer and Mr Owen
<b>BUS 3</b>	<b>ROUTE C</b>	<b>CPFC/SAINSBURY CAR PARK, WHITEHORSE LANE, SOUTH NORWOOD SE25 6XB</b>
	STAFF	Mr Barry, Mr Cotton, Mr Jones and Mrs Palmer

### **World Book Day Initiatives**

World Book Day takes place on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March**. Next week, students will be completing reading focussed tasks in Form times ranging from a Harry Potter themed escape room to discussing what books they would take to a desert island. The **Wellbeing Wednesday** challenges will also focus on creative ways to engage in reading – we cannot wait to see your efforts for these. On World Book Day, you can expect your son to be getting an opportunity to read subject-specific texts for a minimum of 15 minutes in each of his lessons, therefore helping to build up regular reading opportunities. Watch out for staff members dressing up over Zoom too!

### **200MillionMinutes – National Competition**

We have entered a national schools' competition that launches on World Book Day and runs until 10th July 2021. This is part of a global reading initiative aiming for school students to read 200 million minutes in total. Students (and their families!) are encouraged to read anything - paperbacks, magazines, comics, plays, newspapers and ebooks are all great - and keep track of how many minutes they read in a week. These minutes will then be logged by your son's Form tutor, which will be added to the school's overall weekly total. There are a great range of prizes for the winning school. Why not have a look at our virtual library and MyOn, choose a book together and start the 200MillionMinutes journey?

### **Reading Survey**

To help us understand our students' current reading habits and how we can best support you in establishing a regular reading routine, we would appreciate it if you could complete the survey at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3RT96MH>. Your son has also been set a survey to complete on ShowMyHomework. These surveys close next **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 3:30pm**.

As we continue our Lenten journey, I would like to end with these words from Pope Francis as he asks each of us the question: *Do You Want to FAST this Lent?* –

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

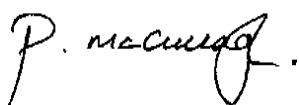
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Yours sincerely,



P E McCullagh  
Headteacher