



As you will be aware from Wednesday 6th January 2021, School is closed until further notice for all children, except those who are vulnerable (ie, have an EHCP or social worker) and those whose parents/carers are Critical Workers. The government guidance during lockdown says that the children of parents and carers who are critical workers may be eligible for a school place. However, this does not mean that all places should be taken up and it does not mean that there is an entitlement – the guidance says that critical worker parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can, out of the transmission chain.

We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding through this difficult time. We hope that you are all keeping well, it has been lovely to hear how the children are getting on at home. Please keep in touch with us!

Please help everyone by adhering to the social distancing rules set by the government and keep yourselves and your family safe.

Testing those who are symptomatic of Covid19 is a key strategy in managing and reducing the spread of the virus.

Detailed below is the government guidance on what the symptoms are of Covid19:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

In line with DFE guidance, anyone who is symptomatic we are asking that they are tested. Please note the period of isolation for the person with symptoms is 10 days from the start of symptoms, a household member would need to isolate for 10 days. Day 1 is the day after symptoms or the day after a positive test if no symptoms.

Jesus said: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

At St Thomas More our Mission is to love and to become the wonderful person God created us to be.

WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

Here is a reminder of the key protective measures we are asking you to follow. (Please do not be offended if school staff remind you regarding the below, it is about working together to help stop the spread of the virus).

Here is a reminder of the key protective measures we are asking you to follow. (Please do not be offended if school staff remind you regarding the below, it's about working together to help stop the spread of the virus)

- Please keep 2m apart from anyone not in your household- this helps to limit the spread of the virus. There are 2m markings throughout the school site to support this.
- **Please wear a face mask/covering on school site unless you are exempt.**
- Please keep your child/children with you at all times- this supports the protective bubble we have in place in school.
- Although we love to chat to our families, in order to keep lines moving, please phone/email or send a note into school with any messages, for staff.
- Only 1 parent/carer per family to come on school site at drop off/pick up times- this helps to keep the number of people on school site at any one time to a minimum.

Sponsorship Money Raised



Our children and families have raised a huge £1040 for the Friends Association from our Fundraising Day in November ☺

If anyone has any sponsorship money you can still hand it in to the school office.

Thank you for your continued support!

GROWTH MINDSET AWARD WINNER!



Last week's winner is Luna in Year 2 for:

Your perseverance with your learning. You have been trying really hard to stay determined and keep trying when things get tough instead of giving up! You have blown me away with your excellent attitude to learning and it has been wonderful to see you independently problem solve and overcome obstacles! Well done!

Half Term



School will break up for Half Term on **Friday 12th February**. School will reopen to all critical worker/vulnerable children who have already been allocated places on **Tuesday 23rd February**.

We hope you have a peaceful and relaxing well deserved break!

Parents/Carers, can we ask that you keep us informed over the half term period via enquiries@st-thomasmore.sheffield.sch.uk regarding any children/household members who are symptomatic and require a Covid19 test. Even though we are not in school, we still require this information.

Thank you for your support with this.

WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION



CELEBRATION FRIDAY WINNERS

Friday 5th February

F2	Piper	For	Coming in with a lovely smile every morning this week and for showing us your super writing in RWInc. Well done Piper 😊
	Benjamin		Trying really hard with all of your home learning and for fantastic listening during your 1:1 zooms with Miss Ryan and Miss Carder. Keep it up Benjamin 😊
Y1	Daisy	For	Some wonderful home learning this week – we especially enjoyed your lovely, neat writing! You did really well with your time adverbials too.
	Woody		Working very hard with your home learning! It was great to see pictures of you trying to bake bread and thinking carefully about the equipment and utensils you needed to use!
Y2	Zach	For	For your amazing independent work in maths! You have blown me away with your brilliant determination and knowledge with fractions and I am so proud of you for completing it all on your own! Well done Zach!
	Milly		For your outstanding narrative writing! Your sentences have been written so carefully and composed so perfectly, it gave me goose-bumps! I love that you have put your own voice and flare into your writing, you are true author! Keep up the good work!
Y3	Eve	For	Your fantastic report this week on Earthquakes. Your newspaper report about the 1906 Earthquake in San Francisco was both factual and entertaining to read. Well done, Eve!
	Masi		Your great work about Alexander Fleming this week in our history lesson. You used great factual information in your report about his life and work. Well done!
Y4	Lucas	For	Using a wide range of skills in your Big Write this week. I am really impressed with your newspaper report! Well done Lucas.
	Dantaye		Your amazing attitude and progress in fractions this week has been fabulous. I was so impressed with how quickly you were answering questions. Well done Dantaye!
Y5	Joshua	For	Consistently completing all your home learning to a high standard and for persevering when tasks have been tricky! Well done Joshua
	Carly		Amazing determination to complete all home learning independently and to a high standard, well done Carly!
Y6	Abby	For	Always being prepared, focussed and determined in your lessons – well done persevering through virtual learning! Keep it up!
	Maisie		Explaining how humans changed when they began farming in the Neolithic era and asking historically valid questions! Keep it up!

WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

Breakfast Packs



If anybody would like an extra breakfast pack, there are plenty in the school office if you would like to pop in and collect one. If you are isolating/shielding and you would like one, please give us a call/email and we will arrange for this to be dropped off at to your house.

Book Exchange at School

Thank you so much to those families who have donated books; as you can see we have a really wide variety for all age groups! We of course will always take further donations so please keep bringing them in so we can replenish the stock!

The book trolley will be outside the school office from Monday 25th January for children to choose a book to read. Please ensure once you have read the book, you bring it back so someone else can enjoy it. The book exchange is available for all children, whether accessing provision in school or learning at home.

For children who are in school, they can access the reading trolley every morning before school. For children at home, they can access it between 10am-2pm daily. In both instances, please ensure social distancing is maintained.



WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

The Sheffield Children's University Home Learning Challenges for the February half term are now available!

The below contains 5 fun, home learning activities, crafts and games for families to enjoy, and collect CU credits for taking part too!

With the libraries closed, it's difficult for families to get a Sheffield CU Passport to Learning at the moment. Families can now order these online from them directly:

<https://bit.ly/SCUOrderPassporttoLearning>.

These Passports will cost £4.50 (incl. postage). Due to restricted access to their offices at the moment, there is likely to be a delay in postage but they aim to send them out as soon as possible.

**February Half Term
Home Learning
Challenges
2021**

5 fun, home learning activities, crafts and
games to enjoy with your family

Collect 1 CU credit per activity with your Passport to
Learning. Remember to complete and return your
Learning Reflection Diary to claim your credits!

**SHEFFIELD
children's
UNIVERSITY**

**PASSPORT
TO LEARNING**

WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION



February Challenge: #DrawWithRob

Drawing is a really great activity – it helps you to relax, it gets your creative juices flowing, and helps you to focus in on something calming for a while. There are lots of different types of drawing, but today's challenge will help you to learn some top tricks of the trade from a professional cartoon artist.

You will need:

- Plain paper
- Pencil
- Pencil crayons



Lots of people think and say, "I can't draw" (us included!), but grab some paper and a pencil, click on the link below, and learn step-by-step from Rob Biddulph on his YouTube channel!



Step 1: Grab your paper and a pencil.

Step 2: Ask an adult to help you click on the link below on a device (mobile phone, tablet, laptop or smart TV is fine), but be prepared to keep pausing and unpausing the video so you can follow Rob's drawings step-by-step.

<http://www.robbiddulph.com/draw-with-rob>



Step 3: Choose which drawing you'd like to do. Scroll through Rob's page, choose your picture and click on the link. The first one (a dinosaur called Gregosaurus) is a good one to start with as Rob introduces himself, but feel free to choose any you like.

Step 4: Get drawing! We'd like you to have a go at at least three different drawings, but why not have a go at all of them if you have time? Maybe one a day over the next week? We can't wait to see your creations!



If you attend a Sheffield school, you can collect **1 CU credit** for completing this task. To claim your credits, please complete and return a Sheffield CU Home Learning Challenge Reflection Diary which can be found here: <https://bit.ly/SCUHomeLearningReflectionDiary> Once you have completed all the challenges, email your reflection diary along with evidence of your completed activities to cu@sheffield.gov.uk (photos/videos etc.) and we'll award CU credits. We can't wait to see your work!



WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION



February Challenge: Banana Bread!

Lockdown has seen a huge number of people start baking at home, and LOADS of people have tried baking banana bread! It's really quick, easy to do and doesn't need lots of equipment or ingredients either. So, wash your hands, and let's get baking!

You will need:

- 3 ripe bananas, mashed
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- ¼ cup melted butter
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- A baking tin (9"x5" but anything similar will be fine)

Step 1: Preheat your oven to 165 degrees C (325 degrees F). Grease a 9x5-inch loaf tin.

Step 2: Mix your bananas, sugar, egg, and butter together in a bowl.

Step 3: Mix your flour and baking soda together in a separate bowl. Stir it into the banana mixture until the batter is just mixed. Stir the salt into batter.

Step 4: Pour the batter into your prepared loaf tin.

Step 5: Bake in the oven for about an hour. It should be baked until you can stick a knife or fork into the centre and when you pull it out, it comes out clean (with no raw mixture on it).

Step 6: Leave it to cool a little, then slice and enjoy. It's lovely served just a little warm with a warm drink, or with some ice cream or cream!



If you attend a Sheffield school, you can collect **1 CU credit** for completing this task. To claim your credits, please complete and return a Sheffield CU Home Learning Challenge Reflection Diary which can be found here: <https://bit.ly/SCUHomeLearningReflectionDiary> Once you have completed all the challenges, email your reflection diary along with evidence of your completed activities to cu@sheffield.gov.uk (photos/videos etc.) and we'll award CU credits. We can't wait to see your work!



WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION



February Challenge: Julia Donaldson

We're pretty sure you'll all have heard of at least one of the fantastic story books created by the brilliant Julia Donaldson? Which is your favourite? The Gruffalo? A Squash and a Squeeze perhaps? Maybe even Room on the Broom? We love them all! If you haven't yet read them, why not order them from Sheffield Libraries, so you can 'click and collect' to borrow and read them? If you're not yet a Sheffield library member, follow this link here: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/libraries-archives/join-the-library.html> It's FREE to join, and also gives you access to thousands more ebooks, emagazines, etc. that you can download for free!

But this challenge is a little bit special. Julia Donaldson has worked with the amazing illustrator Axel Scheffler to bring us some unique, special edition illustrated rhymes all relating to the Coronavirus – lockdown, learning at home and even the vaccine are all examples of how Julia Donaldson has turned a current situation into a rhyme. We've included some as examples on the next page. We'd love for you to have a go at making up your own rhymes, using famous characters from a book. You can use Julia Donaldson's characters or others from one of your own favourites books – it's up to you.

You will need:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Colouring pens/pencils

Step 1: Decide which book character you want to use for your rhyme.

Step 2: Think about something Which has changed for you over the last year. Perhaps it's learning at home, or learning in a bubble at school. Maybe it's having to stay at home. How about having to catch up with friends on Zoom? How about wearing a face covering? But it could also be something about spending more time with family? Have you been playing more games together? Have you found this fun? Or, could your rhyme be about having to spend more time stuck indoors? It's up to you!

Step 3: Try and write some key words down that are linked to your idea. For example, for 'staying at home', your words might be 'bored', 'crazy', 'cook', 'games', 'learn', 'Zoom', 'Google', 'classroom', 'friends', 'walls', 'inside', etc.

Step 4: Try and write a short sentence (about a maximum of 10 words) about your subject. Next, try and write another sentence which rhymes with the end of the first one. Don't worry if you can't do it straight away. You might need to play around with the words a little until you get some to rhyme together. Don't worry if you can't get them to rhyme though, it's not essential! An example might be...

'The Gruffalo's Child laid bored on his bed. 'I know', he thought, 'I'll bake banana bread'!

Step 5: Can you write your sentences neatly on a piece of paper? Perhaps you could even try and draw your character doing something to match your sentence?

If you attend a Sheffield school, you can collect **1 CU credit** for completing this task. To claim your credits, please complete and return a Sheffield CU Home Learning Challenge Reflection Diary which can be found here: <https://bit.ly/SCUHomeLearningReflectionDiary> Once you have completed all the challenges, email your reflection diary along with evidence of your completed activities to cu@sheffield.gov.uk (photos/videos etc.) and we'll award CU credits. We can't wait to see your work!



Tiddler's school's not open, so Tiddler can't be late.
But he still learns all his lessons, sent over by Miss Skate.



WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION



"Where are you going to, little brown mouse?
Come and have tea in my treetop house."
"But I don't want a fine, and your tree might be
Outside of my exercise boundary."



"Where are you going to, little brown mouse?
Come for a feast in our logpile house."

"I wish I could visit your house of sticks
But sadly, two households may not mix."



Finding your mum was a whole lot of trouble.
How can you be bored with your family bubble?



Iggety, ziggety, zaggety, ZOOM -
I wish there was somebody real in my room.



Here come the Flying Doctors - joy and jubilation!
The mermaid, lion and unicorn will get the vaccination.

For more ideas, have a look at the other special
edition images...

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2021/january/julia-donaldson-and-axel-scheffler-brighten-lockdown-with-more-new-coronavirus-pictures/>

Artwork and verses © Axel Scheffler
and Julia Donaldson

WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION



February Challenge: Hopscotch!

Hopscotch is a traditional playground game for children – have you played before? Or maybe, you've seen a hopscotch game marked out on the floor but never known how to play? You only need some space to play, some way of marking out the area and a small object to throw. So, here's a challenge to get you hopscotching either for the first time, or with some different ways to play for you more experienced children (and adults!). Here's the classic game first...

You will need:

- Somewhere to mark out the game on the floor (outdoors or indoors)
- Chalk or a stone or tape
- A marker (stone or other object)

Step 1: Draw a traditional hopscotch diagram like the one in the picture (chalk is best for the pavement outdoors but you might find that a stone will make a good enough mark. If you're playing inside, you could use tape)

Step 2: Throw a small stone, twig, beanbag, or other marker into the first square. (If it lands on a line, or outside the square, you lose your turn. Pass the marker to the following player and wait for your next turn.)

Step 3: Hop on one foot into the first empty square, and then every empty square after that. Just make sure you skip the one your marker is on.

Step 4: When you get to the pairs of numbers (2-3, 5-6, 8-9), jump with both feet, one in each square.

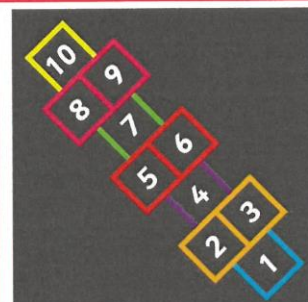
Step 5: At number 10, land as a jump with both feet in the square. Then make your way back to the start in the same way (hop on single numbers, jump for the paired numbers).

Step 6: When you reach the square with your marker in, pick up the marker—still on one foot (don't wobble over!)—and complete the course, back to the start.

Step 7: If you finished without any mistakes, pass the marker to the next player. On your next turn, throw the marker to the next number. If you fall, or jump outside the lines, or miss a square or don't pick up the marker, you lose your turn and must repeat the same number on your next turn. Whoever reaches 10 first, wins.

To make things a little more challenging, try these suggestions...**Watch the Time:** Set a timer for 30 seconds. Each player must complete the course within the time frame to proceed. If you go into overtime, you lose your turn. **Sign on the Line:** Instead of throwing the marker in order of the numbers, throw it in any square. When you complete a successful turn, write your initials or name in the square where your marker landed and pass it to the next player. The game ends when all spaces have been signed. The person with the most signed squares wins. **Kick It:** Try kicking the marker from space to space—with your hopping foot—as you jump through the course.

If you attend a Sheffield school, you can collect **1 CU credit** for completing this task. To claim your credits, please complete and return a Sheffield CU Home Learning Challenge Reflection Diary which can be found here: <https://bit.ly/SCUHomeLearningReflectionDiary> Once you have completed all the challenges, email your reflection diary along with evidence of your completed activities to cu@sheffield.gov.uk (photos/videos etc.) and we'll award CU credits. We can't wait to see your work!



WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION



February Challenge: Snow Fluff!

Most of us have already seen two lots of snow since Christmas, but here's an experiment so you can make your own snow at any time of the year!

Step 1: Pour the cup of corn flour into a large bowl. Use a spoon to scoop the shaving cream on top of it.

Step 2: Put 5-10 drops of food colouring on top. Stir to mix.

Step 3: When the mixture looks like grated cheese, use your hands to squish the mixture even more. Pretty soon the shaving cream and corn flour will form a ball, about the same texture as dough. If your mixture is really wet and sticky after mixing, it needs a little more corn flour. If it won't stick together and falls into pieces, add a little more shaving cream.

Step 4: That's it! Try sculpting snow angels, snowmen, or make a tiny snow fort!

You will need:

- 1 cup corn flour
- 1 cup shaving cream
- Food colouring






If you attend a Sheffield school, you can collect **1 CU credit** for completing this task. To claim your credits, please complete and return a Sheffield CU Home Learning Challenge Reflection Diary which can be found here: <https://bit.ly/SCUHomeLearningReflectionDiary> Once you have completed all the challenges, email your reflection diary along with evidence of your completed activities to cu@sheffield.gov.uk (photos/videos etc.) and we'll award CU credits. We can't wait to see your work!



WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

Sheffield CU Home Learning Challenges: **Reflection Diary**

If you choose to complete one or more of our Home Learning Challenges that we share – well done! We can't wait to see what you've been learning and creating! If you attend a Sheffield school, you can earn CU credits for completing them. To claim your CU credits, please fill in the table below and email a copy of this sheet to CU@sheffield.gov.uk with the evidence of each challenge we have asked for (e.g. photos, video, scanned copies of written work, etc.). Please save the evidence from all your completed challenges, and send it all together!   

Child's name: _____ Child's date of birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Child's SHEFFIELD school attended: _____ CU Passport to Learning No: _____

Date completed	Name of challenge	What I learned by completing this challenge (list at least 3 things!)	What I enjoyed most about this challenge	Total number of credits earned in the activity

I consent to the Sheffield Children's University (CU) Team using the information provided on this form to track my child's participation in extra-curricular activities, and subsequently to award CU credits. I understand this data will be stored securely and only shared with other Council services and schools where appropriate. I also understand that I can request that my child's information is deleted at any point, and that I can find more information on how Sheffield CU uses my child's data by reading the Privacy Notice on their website: www.sheffield.gov.uk/cu

Signed (Parent/Carer): _____

