

## Wellbeing Newsletter No. 1

We hope that you are all keeping well and safe and settling into a new way of learning at home.

The purpose of this newsletter is to offer some ideas and suggestions for activities linked to looking after our mental health and wellbeing, which is particularly vital in these challenging circumstances. There is no expectation to complete any these tasks, just there for you to use as you wish.

We have also now set up a Wellbeing page on our website, that gives ideas of how to stay mentally healthy and where to turn for support and advice.

<https://stgiles.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/wellbeing/>

### **Five Ways to Wellbeing**

The 5 ways of wellbeing, is how positive actions can contribute to and boost feelings of wellbeing, both mentally and physically. The 5 actions are listed and explained below and should have a beneficial impact. More ideas/activities will be added in the next newsletter. We'd love to hear how you're getting your 'Five a day.'

Connect	Be active	Take Notice	Keep Learning	Give
<p>Connect with the people around you which is particularly important and challenging during this pandemic, when we are not allowed to physically see people. Online platforms are a great way to enable us to see family and friends as well as speaking on the phone.</p> <p>However, you stay in contact with others simply talking about how you feel can make a big difference.</p>	<p>Current guidance says that everyone is able to go out each day for a walk, cycle or run. There are lots of online workouts covering a wide range of activities and abilities that can be done within the home. If you have access to a garden or outdoor space you can use this to get active. I always find a walk in the fresh air without a phone or screen really beneficial and lifts my mood.</p>	<p>Being aware of the world around you and what you're feeling. Take some time each day to talk about how everyone is feeling and to connect with one another. There are some additional ideas for conversation topics listed below. Also, when going outside for your daily exercise, take a few moments to notice the feelings of fresh air and sunshine on your face. Listen to the sounds around you. What do you notice?</p>	<p>Learning something new or improving a skill you already have is great for giving a sense of achievement. As a family you could talk about the things you enjoy doing and what you can teach each other. Set yourselves a challenge and enjoy the steps you take in attempting to master it. Yes this could be an online course, but it could also be learning how to kick ups, or a slam dunk in basketball!!!</p>	<p>There are ways you can help others while still following the guidelines. Do something kind for a family member or friend. Thank someone. Smile. Make thank-you notes for our key workers. Make postcards for neighbours.</p> <p>Ask a family member if they need help in completing a household job, eg hanging out the washing or assist with meal preparation.</p>



# Mindful Breathing

## Day 1 - Basic Mindful Breathing Exercise

Sit in a comfortable position, keeping your back straight so that it is not touching the back of your chair. It may be helpful to move to the front of your seat so that you can feel your sitting bones.



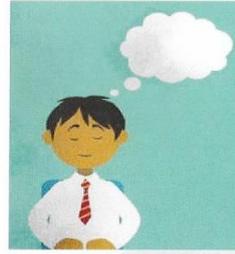
1. Close your eyes if you feel comfortable or soften your gaze and look at the floor.



2. Scan your body and notice how you feel.

3. Notice the sensations of each breath as it happens – don't try and control the breath, just notice it.

- Focus on the breath going into your nostrils and out through your mouth.
- Pay attention to the rise and fall of your chest.
- Notice the rise and fall of your belly as you breathe.
- Continue this for a few minutes.



4. If your mind wanders away from the breath notice this distraction and then gently bring your attention back to the feeling of the breath going in and out and your counting. Do not judge yourself, as the mind wandering is very natural.

5. After five minutes, take one more breath and feel your feet firmly on the ground. Notice the noises around you and come back to the here and now. When you're ready, gently open your eyes.



### Thoughts in the sky

- Focus on breathing as outlined above.
- Imagine any distracting thoughts or feelings as clouds in the sky, floating away gently.
- Continue this for a few minutes.



### Waves

- Focus on breathing as outlined above.
- Imagine any distracting thoughts or feelings as waves in the ocean, coming and going, rolling in and leaving again.
- Continue this for a few minutes.



**When it rains, it pours...**  
**but soon, the sun shines again.**  
**Stay positive. Better days are on their way.**

### Conversation Corner

Some questions to discuss in your families:

- **What makes you proud?**
- **What happens that you think is wasteful?**
- **What is the best gift you have ever been given?**
- **What do you like about being you?**