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'Learning For Life'

2021 February

Dear Parents/Carers

I write with an update as we approach the half-term break after what has been a very challenging time for everyone in our school community.

This issue contains:

- COVID 19 update
- Remote Learning
- Children's work
- Parent/teacher phone calls
- Safety online
- Willoughby Award
- Book Week
- Finally...

Covid 19 update

As things stand at the moment the outlook is much brighter than it was in the last newsletter back in January. The effects of the current national lockdown restrictions are starting to show with the R rate and number of daily infections falling. Equally, the vaccination programme is well under way giving us all hope and a bit of light at the end of the tunnel. Here in school, all members of staff are now taking lateral flow tests twice a week before coming into school in line with Primary Schools across the country. My thanks to Mrs Ledward for taking on board the administration of this.

We await more news on the reopening of schools and currently only know that the government hope to start the reopening of schools from 8th March depending on a variety of factors. Once we have further details we can then plan how this will work for our school.

Remote Learning

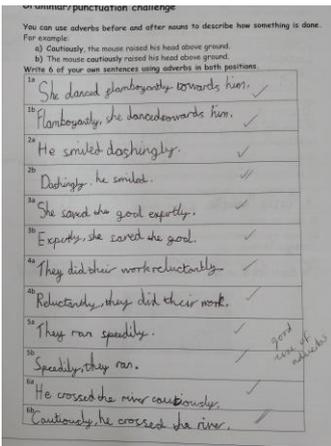
The current remote learning programme is in full flow across all year groups. The combination of live contact via zoom, recorded lessons and photocopied work packs is, I hope, making the best of a bad situation. Whilst appreciating that all of you have undoubtedly had moments of frustration and despair, the teachers have been amazed at how adaptable the children have been and how a lot of learning has actually taken place, in spite of everything. The staff have all been encouraged by messages of support, suggestions for adaptations as well as a bit of technical know-how, as we have all had to learn a whole new way of working.

The Governors will be in touch shortly with an overview of your responses to their survey, which so many of you took the time to complete.

Children's work

As the newest set of work is being sent out each child in Years 1- 6 will receive some written feedback from their teacher. This, I hope, will encourage the children that their work is valued and important at the same time as informing the teacher about what has or has not worked and what may need more attention when the children return to their normal classes. Below are a few examples of the wonderful range and standard of some of the excellent work that has been taking place.

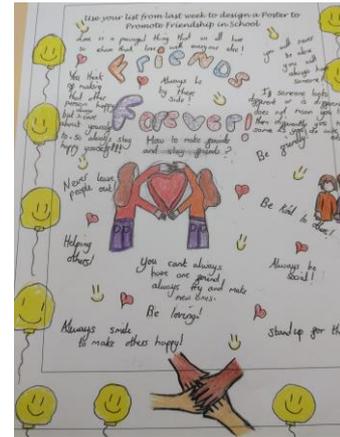
Grammar Yr 5



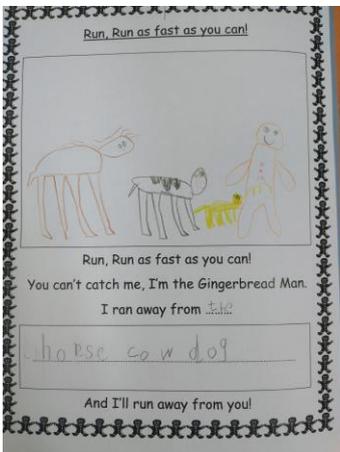
Maya Mask Yr 3



PHSE Yr 6



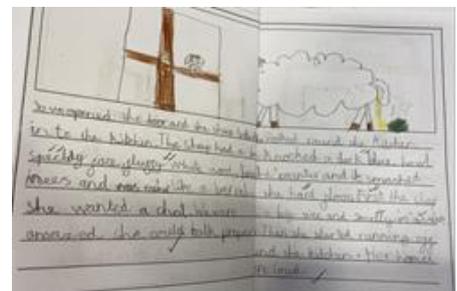
English Reception



DT Yr 1



English Yr 2



Art Yr 4



History Yr 3



Willoughby Award

After half term, I will be bringing the weekly Willoughby Award back. This will be handed out in recognition of all the hard work that has been taking place with remote learning and all the stresses that that has involved.

Parent/ teacher phone calls

You will have received an appointment via email for your parent/teacher phone call for the week beginning 8th February. Each teacher has a different day for their calls and appointments are for the regular 10-minute slots. If you require a longer conversation or if you need to change the day or time of your call please let the office know and we will make any necessary changes.

Safety online

The NSPCC Net Aware website <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> is a very useful website for any online safety concerns. The 'Safety in Lockdown Hub' has a wealth of sensible advice as well as information about popular gaming sites for children, help with setting privacy settings as well as online learning tips.

Book Week

Book week runs from 1st-5th March 2021 with World Book Day falling on Thursday 4th March. This is always a special week in school as we celebrate all things book related. We will still be carrying on this tradition and home learning will be book related that week. We would also love it if the children still dressed up on that day and sent in photos of them in their outfits.

Finally ...

- Please can I remind you that we break up for half term on Friday 12th February and return after the holidays on Monday 22nd February.
- Also a reminder that if your child cannot make their morning session on zoom please can you phone the office just to let them know. We are still taking a register wherever we can

School is nothing without the children and we are all missing the hustle and bustle of day-to-day life with everyone around. We must all, however, remain positive and hopeful that we will all return to some sort of normality for the children soon. In the meantime, I sincerely hope that you all enjoy the up-coming half term break by closing laptops and switching off other devices with us all having a break from zoom for a week.

Yours sincerely



Beatrice Smith
Head Teacher