

29th January 2021

SPRING 1 TERM

A WORD FROM MRS CALLAGHAN...

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to remote learning. The 'attendance' and engagement with our remote learning continues to be very strong and the children are producing work of a high standard. Thank you also to all those families who responded to our survey about remote learning – the feedback we received was very positive and will help us to tailor our provision going forward.

As you will no doubt be aware, the government has now announced that schools will not begin to reopen until 8th March **at the earliest**. This means that we have, as a minimum, another 4 weeks of remote learning to prepare for. With this and your survey feedback in mind, we have decided to make a few minor changes to the way you will receive and access some of the lessons.

In the feedback, the majority of parents were strongly in favour of receiving the learning information on the evening before it is due. From Monday all teachers will send out or upload work at 7pm to give you time to print out resources and prepare for the next day. I hope this will make things a little easier for you at home. We have also been investigating options for a 'virtual learning platform' that we can upload work and lessons directly on to and that children can access easily to complete their work and return it to their teacher. Having looked at several different options, we have decided to trial using the Portfolios section on Class Dojo for assigning some of the remote learning work. Initially we will try this for Foundation subjects (Art, History, Science, Computing, RE, French and Music). English, Maths, Phonics and Spellings will remain as they are now until we have trialled the system. Most parents are already signed up to accessing Class Dojo.

If you are not yet connected, please let us know and we will send you log in details as soon as possible.

From Monday, you should then receive notifications about work that has been set for your child. You can access Class Dojo at www.classdojo.com or via the Class Dojo app.

We will be holding another socially-distanced Book Swap on Tuesday 2nd February (more details below). You can return finished books and collect new books for children to read. You can also collect more exercise books and other physical learning resources if you need them.

As mentioned in my previous newsletter, we can lend out school devices (iPads or laptops) if you are struggling. Also, the government is offering parents access to free 4G internet where adequate broadband is not available. Please contact school if you need help with these issues. Copies of worksheets can also be made available if you are having technical problems printing or accessing resources.

PLANNED DIARY DATES (Events may be subject to change due to Covid 19)

FEBRUARY

Mon 15th-Fri 19th - Half Term

Mon 22nd - Term starts

MARCH

Mon 29th-Fri 9th April - Easter Break

APRIL

Monday 12th Staff training day

Tuesday 13th Term starts

Weds 14th-Fri 16th - Peat Rigg

Residential: Oak Trees class (Years 3-6)

Weds 21st - Interschool football tournament

COVID Risk Assessment

The guidance from North Yorkshire County Council is that all visitors to the site should wear a mask (unless medically exempt). If you do need to visit the school site, please wear a mask to protect our staff and pupils (this includes the playground).

As the COVID-19 situation continues, a reminder that staff, children or parents experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) must not come to school, should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). We can still provide a test if you have difficulty accessing one. In the event of one member of a household experiencing symptoms or testing positive, the whole household would need to self-isolate. During this time, we ask that you continue to notify school of suspected symptoms and/ or positive tests for COVID even whilst children are learning remotely, as we are required to report on this daily to the Department for Education.

Critical Worker and Vulnerable Children places in school

School continues to be open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. The latest Government guidance is that “Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.” Children allocated a place in school are following the same lessons and curriculum as provided in our remote education. Acorns Nursery continues to be open as normal, for parents who wish to send their children at this time.

Finally, thank you again for your incredible support, patience and understanding in these challenging times.

As always, my very best wishes

Mrs Louise Callaghan (Acting Headteacher)

BOOK SWAP INFORMATION

Reading books can be returned and collected from school on Tuesday 2nd February at the following times (to allow for social distancing):

Families with surname beginning A-G: 1pm-1.30pm

Families with surname beginning H-M and T-Z: 1.30pm-2pm

Families with surname beginning N-S: 2pm-2.30pm

Books being returned will be quarantined for 72 hours.

