



# Weekly Newsletter

15 January 2021

*Making learning a lifelong adventure*

Our school value for this half-term is kindness

Dear Parents/Carers

## Remote Learning

Mrs Shewbridge, the staff and I have really enjoyed seeing the children this week in our new year group assemblies, which we have been piloting as we explore further improvements to our remote learning offer. The feedback from children and parents has been really positive too and we intend to continue these from next week.

Mrs Shewbridge and I met with class reps yesterday morning and had a really positive and productive meeting where we were able to give a lot of background and contextual information about both what is going on in school as well as how we are managing remote learning during the period of enforced school closure. More detail can be seen in our remote learning update sent out with this newsletter.

You will see from the update that we intend to pilot some further live sessions from next week. The sessions will take place on Zoom and year groups will provide more details via Tapestry or Seesaw. We have tried to avoid sessions in different year groups overlapping or clashing, but realise that not all families will always be able to access them. If this is the case, please do not worry. As with all of our provision (be it in *normal* times or remote), we will monitor the effectiveness of these sessions and will continue to develop practice. Before the sessions being next week, please familiarise yourself with and talk to your child about expectations for accessing live sessions that we have set out below. We will assume that you agree to the following code of conduct if your child accesses a session.

### Code of Conduct for Zoom Calls at Home

#### Parents will:

- ✓ Consent to their child being part of a livestream, by allowing him/her to participate in the session. The school will not be recording the session.
- ✓ Support their child with technology to access the session, taking responsibility for their behaviour throughout and ensuring they participate as follows.

#### Children will:

- ✓ Attend sessions on time and dressed appropriately.
- ✓ Sit in a quiet space, ready to listen. This should be a *family space* and not a bedroom. Remove any other distractions in the room (eg: music, radio or television) and switch other devices off.
- ✓ Make sure your username is your first name and initial, so we know who you are and do not use filters or background effects.
- ✓ Treat the Zoom call like a lesson – remember to listen carefully and raise your hand if you have a question.
- ✓ Turn your camera on and your microphone off. Stay 'muted' unless the adults ask you to speak and/or unmute you.
- ✓ Remember to be kind online and to be respectful towards adults and other children on the call at all times. If you feel concerned about someone else's behaviour online, talk to an adult at home or contact your teacher.
- ✓ Not record or screenshot a session.

#### School will:

- ✓ Set sessions times in advance and as consistently as possible.
- ✓ Ensure there are two members of school staff on the call.
- ✓ Manage the waiting room, admitting and removing participants as necessary.
- ✓ Set permissions for the chat function, appropriate to age and stage.

More advice about staying safe online during the lockdown and links to further sources of support can be found [here](#).

## Staying Positive

During the first lockdown in 2020, there was lots of talk about looking after one another's mental health. Given that this lockdown and school closure is taking place in the cold, dark and currently exceedingly damp of January, these concerns seem even more relevant today. Supporting your child at home is a challenging responsibility, particularly if you have more than one child and/or are juggling it with your own work. Advice on staying mentally healthy during the lockdown can be found at the [Young Minds site](#) and information on keeping healthy can be found at [Beezee Bodies](#) (also see below).

Here are our tips for managing remote learning at home. These are nicely complemented by tips from Seesaw below, which fit beautifully with our school values:

- ✓ Keep to a routine as much as possible, but find one that suits you and be kind to yourself if you don't achieve everything!
- ✓ Break tasks down into manageable chunks. Take each lesson or activity and a time and each day at a time!
- ✓ Stop your child after a reasonable amount of time. If they are struggling, message the teacher to say they have had a go.
- ✓ Look for comments from teachers and teaching assistants from previously submitted work. These may include further challenges or tips for the next piece of work.
- ✓ Where 3 challenges are offered (eg spicy, hot and chilli) the child only needs to do one of them or a bit of one before moving to the next.
- ✓ Punctuate on-screen or indoor learning with some physical activity or time outside (within the lockdown rules). Mr George's activities could be used for the whole family.

## Seesaw Learning at Home Tips for Families

1. Keep emotional health a top priority. Make your relationship and connecting with your child your top priority. Model positivity and kindness.
2. You do not need to replace your child's teacher or be an expert on every subject. Learning at home is different. Be patient, kind, and flexible.
3. Create a consistent learning at home routine. Routines make children feel safe and are especially important in stressful times.
4. If you have multiple children decide what will work best. For example, create one schedule where everyone starts at the same time, or create a staggered schedule so children can access resources like devices when they need them. Older children can help younger children. It's a great way to learn responsibility and empathy.
5. Create a distraction free work-space with your child. Your child's focus is influenced by noise, hunger, exhaustion, conversation, electronics, and interest in the activity or subject they're working on. Creating a distraction free space with everyone at home can be challenging so do the best you can. Be patient and keep a sense of humour.
6. Plan for 3-4 hours of focused learning time. There are fewer transitions, class discussions and group projects at home so most students can cover school work in 3-4 hours. Space this time out so it works best for your child and family. Build in time for movement, chores, brain breaks and fun. Just make it routine and consistent.
7. Look for learning moments that are unique to the home environment. This can include cooking, chores, games, learning something new, etc. Think about the maths, literacy, and science skills involved in day-to-day tasks and involve your child.
8. Provide encouragement and support. If your child is feeling overwhelmed or confused reassure them that learning takes time and mistakes are okay.
9. Have your child teach you. Give your child opportunities to teach you about what they are learning. It is a great way to discover if they really understand something and gives them an opportunity to be the expert.
10. Your children will miss their friends and old routines. Be patient, supportive, and loving. When possible, look for ways to spend time together and connect with others through technology or mail.
11. Find ways to be kind to each other and find humour where you can.

Yours faithfully

*Jonathan Walker* Headteacher

## Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements that were celebrated in our online year group assemblies this week.

- **Reception Oak Class** William K – for his fantastic attitude to home learning and showing us his creativity  
Jasmine – for challenging herself with her learning at home
- **Reception Chestnut Class** Luca – for working hard to complete all of his remote learning  
Reenie – for showing enthusiasm and being keen to challenge herself with her remote learning
- **Year 1 Elm Class** Ariadna – for a fantastic first week of home learning  
Charlotte - for a fantastic first week of home learning
- **Year 1 Cedar Class** George - for a fantastic first week of home learning  
Edward - for a fantastic first week of home learning
- **Year 2 Hazel Class** Teddy – for a fantastic first week of home learning  
Verity – for exploring our topic in creative ways and being a vigilant learning
- **Year 2 Willow Class** Matthew – for working hard and writing a great factual report about the Great Fire of London  
Roby – for great effort and writing a super factual report about the Great Fire of London
- **Year 3 Birch Class** Sophia – for having an excellent attitude to online learning  
Caleb – for having an excellent attitude to online learning
- **Year 3 Redwood Class** Atticus – for great problem solving explanations in Maths  
Sophie – for a confident performance of her poem
- **Year 4 Maple Class** Henry – for high quality work in remote learning  
Edward – for showing resilience and working extremely hard in his remote learning
- **Year 4 Pine Class** Johnny – for excellent remote learning work  
Lucy – for showing great resilience and perseverance with remote learning
- **Year 5 Ash Class** Charlie – for his positive attitude and for completing his work independently  
Ryan S – for learning how to use SeeSaw quickly and getting involved with remote learning
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class** Riley – for being kind and caring with his peers  
Evie – for putting in excellent effort and producing high quality home learning
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class** Bea – for a positive attitude to remote learning and for thinking of creative ways to present her work  
Timo – for working well on his remote learning and for excellent time management
- **Year 6 Rowan Class** Aladi – for making a fantastic start to remote learning and always doing her best  
James Taylor – for working hard, responding to feedback on line and asking for help at home when needed

## Further Information and Reminders

Although the majority of our communication comes to parents via School Jotter, we may have occasional need to contact parents via, telephone, email or post, during the period of school closure. If any of these contacts details have changed in recent months, do please contact the school office.

## FREE WEEKLY WEBINARS TO HELP YOUR FAMILY BE HEALTHIER!



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