



Shelley First School Newsletter

February 2021

Care, fairness and respect... No barriers to learning... Celebration and joy

Last day fun - 12th FEBRUARY

We are inviting all of our children to support mental health by dressing to express how they feel on FRIDAY 12th FEBRUARY. Maybe you want to wear a specific colour or wear a favourite jumper? If your child is on-site just please remember that their outfit needs to be practical as we still play outside. If you wish to participate please make a £1 donation via ParentPay. Proceeds will support our mental health work in school.



We are also planning a fun day linked to the theme of Chinese New Year on Friday February 12th. Teachers will hold an initial call only on that day but will still set work to be completed. We feel that the children deserve to do something a little different as they have been working so hard. Hopefully it will lift our spirits.

Blended Learning

We have had some lovely, positive comments about our remote learning—thank you. It really helps as teachers are under stress—delivering lessons in a way that is not ideally suited to primary aged pupils. They are also having to supervise pupils on-site and manage the usual responsibilities that this brings. Therefore, your appreciation is gratefully received—thank you.

We are making welfare calls to those families who are supporting home-learning and we know that this is really challenging for you. Please do not feel that your child has to complete every piece of work set—just do the best that you can. Every family has different circumstances and we recognise this. Whilst we aim to support you we really have to limit the numbers on-site until a return to school is announced by the Government. The national average for primary school places during lockdown is 14% and we have between 47-50% of children in school on any given day. If you can manage home-learning then please do so if possible. Thank you.

During teacher inputs it would be really helpful if useful if parents could:

- Refrain from asking questions as this is interrupting learning for the other pupils and would not happen on a usual school day. This is causing teachers additional stress.
- Not attend a call when your child is in school. This seems unnecessary and also makes teachers feel that they are being checked upon by parents which is not positive.
- Be patient when we have IT issues. Teachers are aware when this is the case and parents calling out doesn't help. We know that you are trying to help but it can have the opposite effect. Thank you for your understanding.

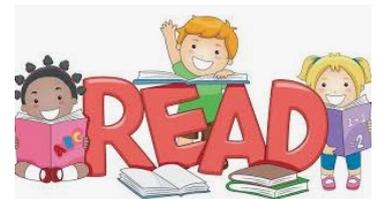
Assessment

We would usually be assessing pupils every day, with formal assessments during next half-term. Clearly this is not practical with the current blended learning provision. However, teachers do need to judge your child's learning and use this to plan next steps. Therefore, we are planning to use WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24th as a day when teachers can use TEAMS to support their assessment judgments with those pupils at home. On this day teachers will make a morning call to all pupils to discuss work and then they will use the rest of the day to make calls to individuals/small groups of pupils. Teachers will contact to parents if this is the case for your child.

In the meantime, staff may need to make some additional calls during an afternoon and they will again communicate this with you. Please note that some tasks set will be INDEPENDENT work. As parents, our instinct is to support our children but assessment tasks must be completed without help—as they will be on-site. This will give us a true picture of what your child knows and can do. Thank you.

Love of reading lending scheme

Thank you to those parents who signed up for the love of reading book loan scheme. This was offered to those children in Y1-5 who are fulltime remote learning from home. A reminder that our youngest children should be accessing the Phonics Bug books online. This is a structured and phonetic approach to reading and is supported by how we teach phonics daily.



Bubbles closures

We have not had an COVID cases this term and hopefully this will remain the case. We are delighted that staff are now able to access home-testing kits on Tuesday and Friday evenings. We have planned this so that there is potentially only one day in the week that could lead to a bubble closure.

Please be aware however that if we have a positive case at any time we will need to close bubbles. We will give as much notice as possible but in some cases notification has occurred in a morning just before school. This is obviously beyond our control and we would advise parents to always have a back-up plan in case of bubble closure.

Please continue to keep us updated regarding any potential contact out of school. It is important that we all work together to keep our community as safe as possible. Thank you.

Take care everyone.

