



Irthlingborough Nursery and Infant School

Issue 11 February 2021

Mental Health is everyone's business- Express yourself dress up day on Friday 12th February



Last week was Children's mental health week. Our home learning heroes newsletter, had a number of suggestions for those learning at home particularly. Everyone has mental health just as we can all have physical health. We all know if we eat well, sleep well, take daily exercise and drink more water and wash our hands well we have more chance of staying physically well. All of these things can also help with our mental health and wellbeing too. If we feel good about our physical health it can support a positive outlook and positive mental health. In school we have been reading stories, many of which were purchased by parents from our amazon wish list. Thank you so much as these will support our children for years to come.

Teachers will be reading stories for the next few weeks and will add a session after school so all children can begin to come together as a class ready for when they do eventually return. We haven't heard anything more than the 8th March is a possible date when some children may begin returning. We realise that this transition could be difficult for those children who have had by then eight weeks of home learning and for those children in school, who maybe haven't been with their regular teacher or class group. We therefore want to start thinking about this and supporting children with this transition.



On Friday 12th February- Please wear your very favourite clothes that really express how you are feeling whether you are at home or coming into school! Let's think positively about ourselves and who we are! **Non uniform day at school!**

Pupil Premium

Remember to check if your child is eligible for Pupil Premium, your circumstances may have changed during this lockdown so you may now be eligible. There can also be extra support for learning with our Pupil Premium children in school. There are three easy ways to check your eligibility. See the information below:

 Call 01604 366656	 Apply online	 Text ' FSM ' followed by your full name, National Insurance Number, your child's name and school name to 60622
---	--	---



- If you are receiving **any one of the awards** listed below then you are eligible for the pupil premium grant:
- Income Support
 - Income based Job Seekers Allowance
 - Income related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
 - Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
 - Universal Credit

There are also free school meal vouchers which can be used in a variety of shops to support with meals during lockdown both in term time and in the holidays. This works out at £15 per week, which I'm sure would be helpful to families at this time. If you are unsure just check.

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact the school on 01933 654900, the local authority [Report a concern to NCC](#) or NSPCC [Report a concern to NSPCC](#)

Mental health- how can I support my child?

During this second school lockdown we have been very aware of the difficulties families have faced, with home school and many people also trying to work from home or juggle work rotas.

In terms of mental health, let's try and work on the positives with schooling. If your child can join the live lessons, this will really support the connection with their school community, it will give a routine and structure and support their learning and well-being. This is the number one thing we ask you to do. Join the Teams lessons, live if possible and if not use the recordings. Unfortunately, Teams doesn't record the teacher as the spotlight, which sometimes makes the recordings more difficult to follow but it is all there to help. If your child is in school or at home, you may need to talk to them about that they will see their other friends and teachers soon. **This is not forever.**



NHS -Every Mind Matters website where you can find videos and much more to support mental health. [NHS Every Mind Matters](#)

Mental Health – how can I support my child?

Here are some resources that can be used for all children.

There is an assembly which explains about different ways of **expressing yourself**.

<https://youtu.be/zisXE4KILAI> place to be assembly for mental health week.

A lovely activity is to draw how you are feeling. There is a short video to watch with your child.

https://youtu.be/STdJ_8ORyE

There are lots more mental health ideas and activities here at this link

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

Remember to share anything you do with your teacher or on our Twitter page. We love looking at what our children have been doing.

Remember also to give regular breaks, go for a walk or into the garden if you have one. Listen to the sounds of nature and pause from screen time for you and your child. That's ok and the right thing to do!

If you or your child are struggling with mental health concerns do contact your GP and the school. We may be able to help your child with a home visit, a phone call, a programme to follow at school or we can sign post you to further support. We are here to help.



YoungMinds Parents Helpline

A helpline that provides information and advice to parents/carers who are worried about a child or young person's wellbeing/mental health.

The service is available 9.30am–4.00pm, Monday to Friday. Call: 0808 802 5544 or [Send a message](#)

Shout out <https://giveusashout.org/>

Text Shout to 85258. This is a text service open 24/7 that will support with mental health issues and is free and confidential.

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact the school on 01933 654900, the local authority [Report a concern to NCC](#) or NSPCC [Report a concern to NSPCC](#)

Remote learning survey

Thank you to all those parents who filled out the remote learning survey. We have looked at all the information and there were some things we can change. A number of parents have said there was an issue with the chat function on Teams, we think this is device related but we don't want to stop the flow of learning so teachers will ask for questions on paper or if a child raises their hand if the chat isn't working they will try and address the issue that way. A few parents said the work was too difficult and some said it was too easy for their child. We have made adaptations for some children and there are always further activities to complete in the home learning information, if your child is finding the work too easy. Teachers if they know about this will direct you to further activities. Teachers will also stay for a few minutes after the lesson if children/parents need a little further explanation.

Teachers are working hard to engage a whole range of children in remote lessons, the most important thing is that they join the lesson.

We are aware that Teams does not record in the Spotlight mode so on the recordings the teacher is one of the small squares. We are hoping Microsoft will improve this, as we have reported it and they do seem to do regular updates and improvements.

We had lots of positive comments about using Teams and the support teachers were offering. We want to make sure that our learning offer is the best it can be. We have all learnt and improved our learning on offer from the last lockdown. Thank you for your support and if you have any more comments regarding the home learning or learning within school please do email the school office, as I think we will be having to offer both for a while longer yet.

Please remember Mrs Kitson, Miss Smart and Mr O'Brien are leading the learning consistently in school so you won't see these teachers as often online. This is to ensure we have high quality education both in school and online. We know some of the children in these classes have struggled with this, so please try and join every story session so they can see their teacher and their friends.



Face Coverings

I just want to say a massive thank you to every single parent/ carer coming onto site who is wearing a face covering. You are helping to keep our community safe. It is 100% of you who can!

www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/facemasks

Thank you

Enjoy the outdoors more

Please follow the link to find out some lovely ideas some of which some can be done from a balcony or window.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/18-ways-to-enjoy-outdoors/zb9wjhv>



Woodland Trust activities

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2021/01/lockdown-activities-kids-winter/>



Safer Internet Day- Tuesday 9th February

Tuesday is a time to highlight the safe use of the marvellous world wide web! Here are a few resources you may like to use.

It is really important to ensure children know how to use the internet safely for when they first pick up a tablet or your mobile phone! This is just a day that highlights positive behaviour and ways to prevent problems occurring.

[Safer internet day films for 5-11-year olds](#)

[Safer internet story to watch](#)

[More information for 3-7 year olds](#)

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact the school on 01933 654900, the local authority [Report a concern to NCC](#) or NSPCC [Report a concern to NSPCC](#)

MEET THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM

We have a strong and dedicated safeguarding team, who want to ensure our children are safe and secure at all times. If you have any safeguarding concerns please do not hesitate to contact one of our team on the main school phone number 01933 654900. For more safeguarding information please follow the link to our website.

<https://www.irthlingborough-inf.northants.sch.uk/parents/safeguarding>

Any one of our team can help and support.



Keeping fit and having fun!

There are lots of ways of keeping fit and having fun at the same time.

Exercise in its many forms is so important, whether it's a walk in nature, a run in the park, a bike ride round the block, a wander to the supermarket, a yoga session in the living room or a work out with Joe Wicks, it all counts to support and encourage good physical health.

Here are a few links to help at home.

[Cosmic yoga session](#)

[PE with Joe Wicks](#)

[Can't Stop the feeling dance moves](#)

[Oti Mabuse dance class](#)



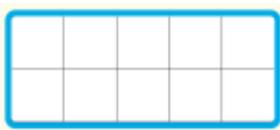
Maths needs to start with the practical at all levels. A small steps approach ensures children fully understand number sense

Understanding the teaching of Maths

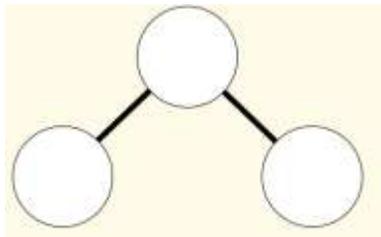
We are proud to be part of the teaching for mastery approach in Maths across school with staff taking part in work research groups as part of the national agenda to **deepen children's mathematical understanding**, ensuring they have a **secure number sense**.

With each new concept we cover in maths, we break it down into **small steps** to ensure the fundamentals are covered and that no gaps in children's understanding develops.

At the beginning of each new step the children use **concrete materials** (different objects) to represent their mathematical thinking. The children use a variety of tools to support their learning such as tens frames, part, part wholes and bar models across school.



Tens Frame

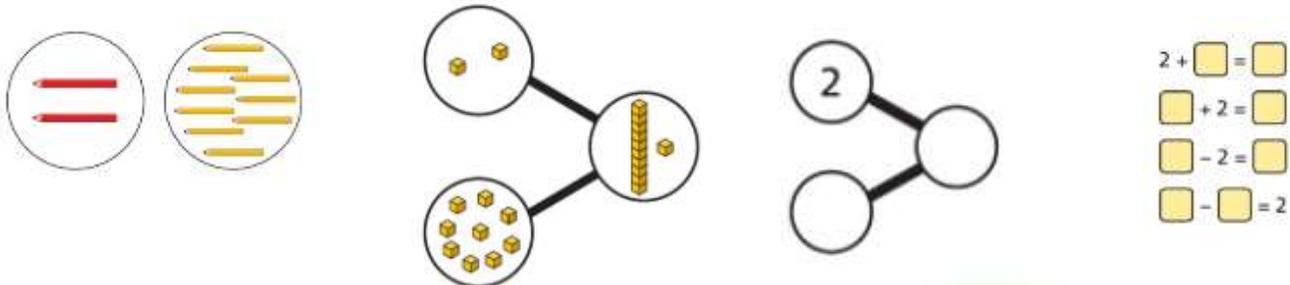


Part, Part, Whole



Bar Model

Once the children are secure with explaining their mathematical understanding using the practical resources, they then move on to representing their understanding **pictorially** before they begin to use more **abstract** methods such as calculations.



At every stage we are looking for the children to use the correct **mathematical terminology in full sentences to explain and justify their understanding**. To ensure the children are mastering the skills and concepts, with each small step, children are given time to practice individually or in small groups, rehearsing and developing their skills to build **fluency, understanding of the concept and confidence**. This enables the children to make connections in their learning and supports the children to retain the concepts and skills so that they are built upon as they move throughout the school. In spring 2 we will be releasing an Early Years and Key Stage 1 Maths workshop on our website which will explore the approach we are using with the children and why.

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact the school on 01933 654900, the local authority [Report a concern to NCC](#) or NSPCC [Report a concern to NSPCC](#)

For more information about home learning visit our website:

<https://www.irthlingborough-inf.northants.sch.uk/parents/home-learning>

Please see our lovely reading dogs! Monty and Star! There is also a guest appearance from Bella, Miss Chapman's dog.

<https://www.irthlingborough-inf.northants.sch.uk/parents/home-learning/storytime-with-our-reading-dogs>

Reading with Oxford Owl and Reading Eggs

We have purchased a further section of Oxford Owl, so we have access to even more books now!

We realise that it may be more difficult to access books so an easy way is through Reading Eggs or Oxford Owl. Oxford Owl has information about all aspects of English. There are reading books your children can access and books to share. There is a great section on phonics too. We use "Letter and Sounds" and there is a video which clearly shares the pronunciation of the 44 letter sounds to support both children and their parents. You will have had a log on from school to access all the books.



<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/learn-to-read-phonics/>



Reading Eggs is a programme, which we have paid for so all of our Reception and Year One children can access this great resource. You will have a login which has been sent home so you can access the website. It can be accessed on a laptop, tablet or mobile phone. There are games, books to read and mini lessons to support the development of your child's phonic knowledge, which is key to learning to read. The children can have lots of

fun on this programme and develop their reading skills. If you have misplaced the log in details please email your child's class teacher on the class email and they can help you out.

<https://readingeggs.co.uk/signup1/>

Amazon wish list- We have chosen books for every year group to add topics and learning for next term and beyond. We have also added a range of books to support children's mental health. If you say it's a gift at check out, you can write a message and say who it is from. We will add a thank you in the book with your child's name on it. [INIS Amazon wish list](#)

It is important to follow all the government advice on coronavirus.

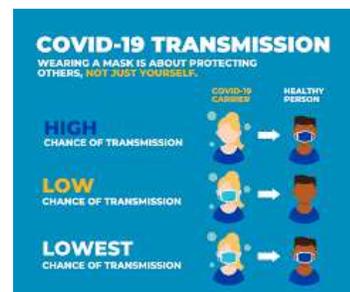
If you have recent onset of any of the most important symptoms of coronavirus:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of smell or taste (anosmia)

you and your household must isolate at home: wearing a face covering does not change this. You should [arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19](#) and ensure you **contact school, if your child is attending.**

Everyone in the house should self isolate if anyone shows symptoms.

[Click here to visit our Twitter pages](#)



If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact the school on 01933 654900, the local authority [Report a concern to NCC](#) or NSPCC [Report a concern to NSPCC](#)