



Value of the Month
Happiness

Newsberries

24.04.2020

Headline News - Ms Peters & Mrs Traxon

Welcome back seems a slightly strange thing to say, but it is certainly good to be back in contact after the 'break'! We hope you all had some time over the Easter Holidays to rest and take stock of how life is for us all at the moment.

We are glad to say that our staffing numbers have now begun to rise, following extreme staff shortages due to illness and self-isolation at the end of last term. I would like to thank staff who have been working tirelessly to get our new ways of working established, as well as continuing to open the school for the children of keyworkers. Staff have worked hard to ensure that these children, who are unable to be at home, have been provided with a safe and stimulating environment in our very different school. Staff also volunteered to work additional days to keep the school open for part of the Easter Holidays.

We have some additional ideas of how we would like to continue to support your children whilst learning at home, which we now hope we can begin to develop further. Thank you for all your support and kind messages through what has been challenging times for everyone.

Hopefully you have seen the letter from earlier in the week about the new Home Learning email account. This has been used well this week and we have received some positive and useful feedback. Thank you for sending in the pictures of work that your children are proud of! It has been brilliant seeing these, but even better some of the smiling faces that we are missing! Please continue to do this! You will receive a response from the Newberries Home Learning Team.

Please keep ensuring that you check in to read Newsberries on a Friday. We will continue to use this as our main means of communication. We are concerned that some parents may not have received this by email at the end of term, it can be found on the useful place on the school's website. We would like to reassure you that it will remain a weekly feature. Stay Safe!

Ms Peters & Mrs Traxon - Headteachers

Staying in Touch

Next week all teachers will make telephone contact with you. This will be a curtesy call and staff would love to have a quick chat with your child if they are willing. We know that some children will not want to do this and that is fine. The purpose of the call is to check how the children are getting on with their home learning.

The calls will come from a withheld number, so please be aware of this when receiving them. If we are unable to speak with you we will leave a message letting you know when we will ring back at a later time.

Home Learning Update

Thank You Year 1!

A huge thank you to all the children and parents in Year 1 who sent the staff this amazing message, which was accompanied by a video too. It made us all smile so much (and feel quite emotional!). We can see that you have all put so much effort into your colourful words, well done. We miss you all too!

Home Learning

Our initial aim was to provide parents with enough materials to support their children up until the Easter Holidays. Although we were all anticipating some kind of school closure, the final arrangements and details were confirmed just before schools actually closed, with much information still being provided.

It is up to individual schools how they impart Home Learning resources to pupils. This will take into consideration a wide number of factors for each school, which is why schools are doing this in many different ways. Our current priority is getting the structure of our activities organised in a way that we feel will best suits our pupils and remains accessible for all parents.



You will see from next week that we have changed some elements of the Home Learning.

- We have increased the number of Maths and English activities, so that there is now one English and one Maths activity for each day, along with one 'topic' activity per day.
- The overview document has been adapted to reflect this and will indicate the suggested activities for each day of the week.

We are hoping this will make it easier for parents to manage the tasks and their time.

You will also see that some English and Maths activities provide the children with a choice of Challenge 1, 2 or 3. The reason for these challenges is to help us to differentiate learning for the children. The children should use these challenges in the same way that they do in school and choose the task that they think will provide them with some challenge. Your child will be used to self-differentiating in this way.

Accessing Home Learning Materials

- Work will be uploaded onto the 'School Closure' section of the school website every *Friday afternoon*. Work for next week (week beginning the 27.04.20 is therefore available).
- This work is to be completed the following week.
- Two files will be uploaded onto the website for each year group. One file will contain an overview of learning for the week. The second file will contain any resources/support materials or further details about the activities.
Please note that teachers have also included answer sheets.
- Please remember that work will be reinforcing work covered in the Spring Term but there will also be activities based on the topics the children would have covered at this point in the Summer Term.

If you would like your child's teacher to see a piece of work your child is proud of, please feel free to photograph or scan it and send it to:

homelearning@newberries.herts.sch.uk

If we already have photograph permission for your child we would really like to start sharing some of the children's work in Newberries. Please specify in your email if you would rather we did not share pictures of your child's work.

This email address can also be used to send any questions you may have about the work. This email account will be monitored regularly and e-mails will be passed on to class teachers.

There is no expectation that parents/carers will use any or all of these materials, they are only suggestions. You are not expected to become teachers and your children are not expected to learn as they do in school. Simply providing your children with some structure at home will help them to adapt.

Purple Mash

In addition to Times Tables Rockstars; Spelling Frame and Spag.com, we also have a very exciting tool in the form of Purple Mash. From now on we will be adding further Purple Mash digital activities.

We are keen to give parents work to support their children that are both paper based and digital. There are two main reasons for this:

- We are more than aware of the pressures of printing copious worksheets, as well as the fact that many families would have a limitation to device/internet access due to other children and adults working at home.
- We are also keen to ensure a balance between these two formats as we feel that an over reliance on either one would not be best for the children.

Additional Resources

Further online and interactive resources have now been released, some supported by the Government. We are aware that the many resources available for parents online can be overwhelming, so in addition to the links we have already sent, we will highlight for you ones which we think may be of particular interest. We will also be endeavouring to make good use of these to continue to support Home Learning packs.

One of the sites that you may find helpful is BBC Bitesize, which has a large range of videos and activities that you can access from home. This could be used to supplement work already set by teachers. This can be found at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

The school is currently following advice from the Local Authority and not using technologies such as Zoom. We are continuing to explore ways in which we can keep in touch with pupils as we know we are all missing each other!

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Well-Being

Whilst our school is closed let us ensure we take care of the children's and the adults' wellbeing:

It can be comforting for children (and big kids like us!) to know that while there is uncertainty in our lives at the moment, the sun rises every day and flowers are blooming outside.

As parents and carers we might also be wondering how we are going to keep children entertained at home. Click on the link below to see some ideas RHS have put together. You do not have access to a garden of your own. There are some activities which are also great for rainy days:

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/News/News-results/National/2020/March/Bringing-the-sunshine-inside>.

Mrs Culverhouse (PSHE Lead)

Keeping Fit

Endorsed by the DfE these short two-minute videos show parents free, fun and easy to follow PE activities for the whole family to enjoy together and help children and young people to continue their skill development in PE.

Each #ThisIsPE video focuses on a different aspect of the National Curriculum at Primary level. Videos are posted at 1pm on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday so you can keep checking back for more fun ways of engaging your children in PE during this difficult time.

<https://www.afpe.org.uk/thisispe-supporting-parents-to-teach-pe-at-home/>

Mr Mellor (PE Subject Lead)

A Note from the Governors

We would like to say a huge thank you to our dedicated staff who gave up their time over the holidays to keep the school open for key worker's children. Like other key workers, our teachers are putting themselves on the front line and this is much appreciated.

Staff are working hard to put things in place to provide Home Learning in a way that works for our school and community, ensuring safeguarding is paramount. Please be assured that regular communication continues between the school and governors, just as it would if we were not in lockdown.

