

MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your family continue to remain well. If this has not been the case then I hope that you are making good progress in your recovery. These continue to be the strangest and most unsettling of times and despite an easing of lockdown, I am sure that life does not really feel much easier for everyone and the future remains uncertain.

Like all schools at this moment, we are giving very careful consideration to the proposal that schools will partially reopen during the second half of the summer term. We are following national and local developments very closely and digesting advice from all quarters before making concrete plans. Please be assured that we will inform you of our intentions at the very earliest opportunity. It will be very helpful to know your initial thoughts on reopening and I will contact you very shortly to find out whether or not you would take up the offer to send your child/children into school after half-term if the opportunity exists.



'Someone's having FUN!

Despite the trials and tribulations of lockdown we are quite a resilient bunch and I have certainly been lifted by the wonderful effort which is going into home learning. Thank you to you the parents for the time you are spending encouraging and supporting your children and well done children for your effort and positivity. I do realise how challenging this is for everyone. I have included some lovely examples of work in this newsletter.



"I've been learning about sinking and floating!"

I hope that routines for home learning are now well established; a daily timetable, although not always easy to adhere to, does go some small way towards recreating a regime that resembles school life. Teachers and teaching assistants do work very hard to prepare lessons which are interesting for the children while at the same time addressing, as best as they can, the summer syllabus for each subject area. They also make every effort to set work that covers a wide range of topics and offer online resources such as Mathletics, Reading Eggs and TT Rockstars to add variety to the home learning programme.

As I have mentioned before, we set quite a lot of work each day because some children are very motivated and enjoy it. Other children find it more challenging and of course we recognise this and ask only that the children complete as much work as they can and you are able to support. It is terribly important that learning takes place each day of the working week in some shape or form so that we can 'hit the ground running' when normal service is resumed and the children can make up for lost learning as quickly as possible when they return to class.



**“And I’m very proud of my Lego house” ...
and so you should be!**

Distance learning is a new concept for children and school staff and inevitably the system has taken some time to settle. Provision varies in form from school to school and there is no common format which every school has adopted. I believe that our system has evolved into something workable and worthwhile and we will continue to adapt and refine how we teach and children learn in the days and weeks ahead.



**“And I’ve got time to learn a musical instrument.” Remember what they say –
practice makes perfect!**

This week we are trying something new and introducing a recorded message from class teachers to outline learning for the week and hopefully provide the children with added encouragement and enthusiasm for the tasks ahead. Please remember that we ask you to respect the privacy of staff by not sharing these images online or uploading to any form of social media. We will enforce this expectation, should it be disregarded. Thank you for your support and cooperation throughout this period; it has been a steep learning curve for everyone and we are grateful to you for working in partnership with us.

The senior leadership team continue to contact you by phone to find out how you are doing and to speak, when possible, to your children. Please note that the caller ID will not be evident and our call will appear as a private number. It has been lovely talking to you and your children and we will get round to speaking with everyone in due course but please appreciate that this is a time consuming (but

very worthwhile and enjoyable) process that will take some more weeks to complete.

Next week is half-term and therefore teachers will not be setting home learning tasks. If you want your child to continue their learning and maintain their routine, then you can access uncompleted tasks from previous weeks and/or your children can carry on with their projects in the red folders we provided. And of course, they can use and enjoy Mathletics, Reading Eggs and TT Rockstars at any time.



“And I’ve made my own Fantasy Island!”

A reminder that here at school we continue to be alert to Safeguarding and Child Protection needs and you can contact me directly by text if you have any concerns. Concerns should not be described in a text and no child or family should be named in correspondence but a request for me or another Designated Safeguarding Lead to contact you can be made this way. All calls or texts will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Similarly, I would like to remind you to be vigilant at all times regarding your children’s use of the internet. Online Safety is always important and no more so than at this time when perhaps your child has greater access to the internet for both school work and leisure. Guidance on safe use of the internet can be found on our school website in the ‘Online Safety’ tab.

The challenges we face at the moment are unprecedented and vary from person to person and family to family. Whatever our

personal circumstances we are all feeling the strain in different ways. Advice is always on hand and two websites I have been recommended to publicise include 1. NHS England with advice on mental health issues and stress caused by financial worries and 2. information from the Metropolitan Police with valuable advice on domestic abuse. Here are the links for each:

1. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/coping-with-financial-worries/>

... and

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/>

2. <https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/daa/domestic-abuse/what-is-domestic-abuse/>

... and

<https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/daa/domestic-abuse/>



“I’ve taken my learning outside; the fresh air is lovely!”

If there has been a recent change in your circumstances and you are now in receipt of benefits you may be eligible for additional support from the school. Please contact the school office if you would like further advice regarding this.

Graham Gunn
Head Teacher



“I’ve been busy with my science task set by Miss Finn and Mrs. Horne.”

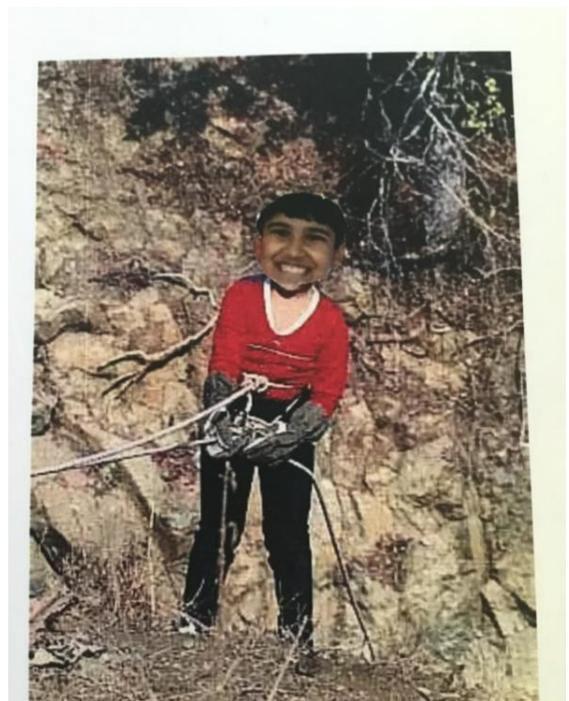


“And you just can’t beat a good read!

Sadly, no school journeys this summer but Y5 still had as much fun as they could with their virtual school journey!



And..... see the next page for a few more virtual activities:



Great pics Y5!