



Woodmancote School
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Newsletter

www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

Newsletter 14. 29th January 2021

As we continue with the current lockdown arrangements there is undoubtedly a great deal of anxiety around how long parents will need to support their children with Home Learning.

We can only empathise with you when it comes to the daily struggles some of you are having with keeping the motivation going and ensuring children are undertaking some learning whilst at home. Many of the staff at school have their own children and are in similar circumstances and each one of them has shared how difficult it is to juggle the many demands that are being made on them.

We have heard from parents who have said that their employers are expecting them to be as productive at home with children as they would be if they were in work. However, they are also feeling guilty about their child accessing online learning or live teaching sessions.

To all those parents who are feeling the strain, please do let us know if you need support. It could be you are a critical worker, but working from home. You may be a single parent with limited mobile data or a family that are struggling financially because of redundancies. Whatever the reason, phone and speak to me or email the school and ask for support.

We know that the expected return to school after half term will not now happen and the 8th March has been mentioned as a potential reopening date. However, it could be that children will be at home until Easter or that there may be a phased return to school. All of which might make your heart sink. We can offer help and support, even if it is just somebody to listen.

However, it is also true to say that we cannot produce a magic wand and make it all perfect. Your child may have to be at home learning with you for a while and you may have to juggle work and home learning at the same time.

Reception and Year 1

Younger children who attend school in normal times have the opportunity to work closely with Teachers and Teaching Assistants on phonics, writing and early maths skills, but also participate in purposeful and structured play. They do not sit quietly and complete worksheets at school and we can therefore not simply send out reams of sheets for your child to complete independently at home. We are endeavouring to support you with some live sessions each day, along with activities and suggested 'work' for all areas of learning.

Play is an important aspect of learning at this early stage of their development and whilst they may not have their friends to play with whilst at home, giving them a variety of play opportunities will help them and you. Teachers in Reception will be working on this and supporting you with broadening these opportunities in the coming weeks. A list of learning opportunities that may be useful can be found later in this newsletter.

Some of this also applies to children in Year 1, so if your child does not engage with every live session or posted activity, please do not worry.

You may want to look at these links, which highlight various activities for children from Birth to 5

https://teach.files.bbci.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/THP_110121_Schedule.pdf

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/activity-schedules/zgvt7yc>

We have seen how adept the older children are at engaging online as they have a confidence and skill with using technology that some of us can only marvel at. There is an emerging difference in the years as to the appropriateness of online learning and we can see evidence of this. We will endeavour to tailor our approach so as to support the children.

Year 2

Year 2 have been very busy learning all about The Great Fire of London. We've read a story about a rat called Boxton and flea called Vlad, who managed to escape the fire. We've sketched pictures of St. Paul's Cathedral and even made our own Tudor-style houses. The children at home and in school have been working very hard - we're so proud of them all!



Year 3

Just to say a big thank you to every single Y3 pupil for their contributions, efforts and resilience this term. We are so proud of you all and we cannot thank your parents enough for their support.

Keep your eye on Dojo for additional activities that will keep you entertained throughout February if you are needing an extra challenge.

Don't forget that at any point, when not in an online lesson, your child can access Times

Tables Rockstars, Rising Stars, Dance Mat Typing, Hit the Button or Yumu (details to come soon).

We can do this, you are all brilliant! Mr. Ridal and Mrs. Holding.

Year 4

The staff in year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed sharing our science and art lessons with both the children in school and at home. We have received lovely photos of your condensation experiment. Next week's science investigation is all about precipitation, don't forget your shaving foam! All the information is on our weekly timetable.

In the week commencing 8th February, we will be using an online music service with the children. If you google 'charanga yumu' and log in with your teams e-mail and password then you should be able to access the site. Don't worry we will help the children navigate the website but if you cannot log on then please dojo Mr Guest so we can get it set up in time for the shared lessons. Mrs McCormack and Mr Guest

Year 5

The children have all been learning brilliantly whether they have been working from home or in school; they have all adapted really well to our new way of learning!

In Year 5, children who attend school in normal times would be expected to complete the majority of their work independently following a teacher input. However, if the children have any questions or difficulties, then this is when adults offer assistance. As normal class practice, where answer sheets are provided, children mark their own work before submitting it to enable them to see where their mistakes are and edit and improve accordingly. If your child is working on TEAMS, please remind them of these



expectations and to check the timetable for when the teacher is available to offer help within the lesson time.

During the week beginning 8th February, the children will be asked to do a collage activity as part of their art. If your child is in school, we would be grateful if you could please bring some old magazines in for us to use; if your child is working from home, you may want to start squirrelling them away! Also, during that week, we will be beginning our geometry unit on Position and Direction in maths. The children will need squared or graph paper for most of the activities. If you cannot get hold of any, please let us know and we can provide some for you.

Thank you for your help and ongoing support, we have been really impressed with the work and attitude of all our students!
Mrs White and Miss Perkins

Year 6

We just wanted to say a huge "well done" to everyone in year six for your efforts. Whether you are at home or in school, you are doing a fantastic job.

With home/remote learning, we are happy for parents to provide as much support as they feel necessary. However, if your child is struggling with any aspect of the learning, please encourage them to drop back into the meetings on Teams. The remote teacher will then be able to provide additional support.

In art we have been creating portraits of WW2 leaders. Next week, we will be looking at Banksy. In school, we will be using his graffiti techniques to spray paint over the portraits to turn them into propaganda posters. For remote learners, in case you don't have cans of spray paint lying around (!), we will be thinking about alternative ways

we can graffiti our portraits, which could include sketching, colouring pencils, paint or collage (whichever you have access to). If you need any resources, let us know and we can arrange for them to be available from the Office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Adkin and Mr Evans

Year 6 Residential

It is with a very heavy heart that we have to inform parents and children in Year 6 that we have had to cancel the residential at Whitemoor Lakes. We have been told that the centre will not be open for the remainder of the year. You will be receiving your deposits back in the coming weeks.

Depending upon Government guidance, we will aim to do something before the Year 6 leave us in July, but as we have only just had this news we have not decided what as yet. We will let you know as soon as we can.

Big Garden Birdwatch

The RSPB are running their annual Big Garden Birdwatch this weekend which people may like to take part in too - another fantastic idea from Sam and his Mum to turn your frown upside down. ☺

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

Parent Consultations

Tuesday 9th and Thursday 11th February

This term these appointments will be slightly different, depending upon whether your child is in school or not.

If your child is in school (full or part-time)

The class teacher will be able to feed back about how they are doing in the core subjects of Maths and English. They will also



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comment upon how they are emotionally and how they present at school.

If your child is at home

You are very welcome to make an appointment and for you to let the teacher know about how your child is dealing with home learning. You may also wish to highlight areas that we should consider supporting you with.

Alternatively, Mr Tucker will be hosting several TEAM sessions where you can join with other parents to discuss the challenges that you are facing and maybe share advice!

It will also be an opportunity to feed back any observations about our provision. If you would like to join one of these, please email admin@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

The maximum number of parents in each meeting will be 6 and they will last no longer than 30 minutes.

Tuesday 9th February at 10am

Tuesday 9th February at 6pm

Wednesday 10th February at 1.30pm

Wednesday 10th February at 7pm

In the Autumn Term several parents asked whether two parents can join the meeting from two devices. We are now able to offer this facility, but it has to be that one parent sends another parent the link. Please follow the link to find out more.

<https://support.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call>

Website and contact numbers for parents in need of support:

CALM

CALM is the Campaign Against Living Miserably. A charity providing a mental health helpline and webchat.

Phone: 0800 58 58 58 (daily, 5pm to midnight)

Website: www.thecalmzone.net

Mind

Promotes the views and needs of people with mental health problems.

Phone: 0300 123 3393 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm)

Website: www.mind.org.uk

Samaritans

Confidential support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair.

Phone: 116 123 (free 24-hour helpline)

Website: www.samaritans.org.uk

atlas camps

2 WEEKS TO GO

Until Atlas Camps Woodmancote open their doors!

'Outstanding' Ofsted registered holiday childcare.
Activities running all day including:

- A wide range of Sports
 - Nerf Wars
 - Arts and Crafts
 - Face Painting
 - Talent Shows
 - Plus lots more!

Book your place now at www.atlascamps.co.uk

#COUNTDOWN

Woodmancote School's Positive Mental Health Challenges 2 & 3

Thank you to all who have taken part in the challenges so far. It has been great to hear and see your ideas and I hope it has helped some of you to take time out from what has been a difficult week felt by many of us. If you haven't seen ClassDojo, here are some of the contributions we have received:

One minute pencil walk doodles:

Year 3 have been hard at work both in school and at home... have a look at their one minute pencil walk creations as part of challenge

Turn Your Frown Upside Down ideas:



This week's challenge 3 contributions

have been great. Take a look at what some of us do to find our smiles:

Meg (Cedar Cass) says: "I was so happy when I lost my first tooth!"

Izzy (Sycamore Class) "I'm happy at the end of the day when schooling has finished and I feel free!

I love to climb, run, jump, roller skate, hover board or dance then I am happy".

Mrs Holding "A nice cup of tea and a delicious biscuit always makes me smile".

Sam (Yew Class) and his Mum have discovered the live cams on the BBC Winterwatch website and found them to be very therapeutic and good for lifting their mood when feeling a bit low. See the link if you want to have a look:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/events/eqwz3d/live/cbmj3d>

Look out for a special Children's Mental Health Week challenge next week!

Contact Details

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thepta@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

woodpeckers@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

chair@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk

School Website:

www.woodmancoteschool.co.uk

Pre-school Website:

<http://littlechestnutspreschoolwoodmancote.co.uk/>



Reception and Year 1

Learning that doesn't look like it!

Finger strengthening - writing needs strong hands!

Threading beads onto string. (Pasta tubes if you don't have beads)

Building with bricks/lego

Cutting out and colouring (could be snipping up play dough)

Write rainbow letters, you do one she goes over it with different coloured pens

Playdough to squish and squash, make numbers, make letters

Kitchen tongs and small items to pick up and move from one container to another

Cutting and using cutlery, cutting food in half, spreading butter on toast with knife

Google finger gym - lots of ideas on You tube

Reading

Read stories to him/her and talk about the pictures and the story

Try to read online reading books

Phonics play web site phase 2 games

Teach your monster to read app

Reading eggs app

BBC bitesize phase 2 and 3 phonics

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

Maths

Count everything, hops and skips, buttons, beads, lego forwards and backwards to 10

Count raisins or grapes, eat one and say how many are left?

Order numbers by putting stickers on teddies and lining them up. Or numbering blocks

Make shapes with spoons, or sticks etc 3 spoons make a? with 4 you can make a? etc

Watch numberblocks on cbeebies and Numberblocks app

Play

Colouring and dot to dots, try to stay in lines and fill the spaces

Play with dolls/cars/dinosaurs/ and make up stories

Play with water, pouring and filling, floating and sinking

Dance and dress up and tell a story

Playing shopping and writing shopping lists/signs for the shop

Write postcards and notes to family

Draw a picture for teachers and post on dojo.