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## Headteacher

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Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Spring Term 2021 – Headteacher update #5 – including a link to a parent survey.

End of week #2. This is the first full week of Home Learning, so always going to be hard. Remember that Home Learning is not a competition – just do what you can, and try and keep everyone smiling. Thank you for your flexibility with changing Zoom times this week. This has made a big difference to the quality of the sessions.

### Home Learning

Below you will find a number of updates re Home Learning. Various additions to our provision and ways of supporting you and your child(ren) are mentioned.

#### (i) Afternoon Zoom

We have been thinking about how we can further develop our Home Learning provision to support effective learning. During the morning registration there is time to outline and discuss the morning tasks, but maybe not enough to adequately discuss the afternoon tasks. So we are sharing with you the idea of holding a short live session to set up the afternoon work. Here are the details:

- Y5/6 at 1.15pm; Y3/4 at 1.35pm. The session will last for between 15 and 20 minutes.
- It will take place on Monday to Thursday.
- We will not take a register, and it will be purely optional. It will be a whole class session.
- It will discuss the work set for that afternoon, as per the model timetable shared by your class teacher. As such it will be a mini-teaching and introductory session, allowing children to ask questions and gain clarification on what the tasks involve.

We would like to hear your thoughts on this idea. Please respond via the very short survey links below:

Year 3 - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6YQX5R3>

Year 4 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZWQ87QH>

Year 5 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZS76PFN>

Year 6 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZSB5YR8>

#### (ii) Assemblies

The assembly page on the VLE will go live from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Currently there is an introductory video from myself and the Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January church assembly. Every week we will post three assemblies: Monday – from Busbridge church; Tuesday - from Mr Catchpole; Wednesday – from Mrs Barker.



Clearly you can watch them whenever you wish as they are not live. You can access them by clicking on the link and putting in the password (different for each assembly link).

The school-led assemblies will focus on our 6Rs of Lifelong Learning: Respect, Ready, Resourceful, Responsible, Resilient, Reflective. These 6Rs are very relevant to Home Learning, so hopefully you will find them useful to discuss with your child. Please note that we have not had the opportunity to roll these out with the Year 3 children yet, so this will be new to them.

### **(iii) Reading and Reading Books**

Ensuring that your child reads every day is an essential part of your Home Learning routine and must please not be overlooked. We have some ideas re encouraging reading which we will share next week. During the previous partial school closure we operated a reading book hand-out scheme from the school gate. However with the wet winter weather this is not feasible. If you are struggling to find books for your child to read then please do let your class teacher know and we will be able to help.

### **(iv) Story Time**

From Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January a new 'Story Time' page will feature on the VLE. Every other day we will post a video of a member of staff reading a chapter from a book. The first book is '100 Mile an Hour Dog' by Jeremy Strong. Your child might like to just listen to the story or, if you have a copy of the book at home, follow it.

### **(v) Half Term Topics Guide**

Early next week we will send you a document that shows which topics your child is learning about this half-term. It includes some useful web links if you wish to take the learning further at home. Please remember that you may have books at home that your child can use when researching a topic.

### **(vi) Exercise Books**

We have bought an A4 lined and squared exercise book for each child. We will wait for a dry day next week and text you to let you know when to collect them from school.

### **(vii) Parent Comms with Teachers**

Could parents please remember to communicate with teachers via the teachers email address, not the VLE message board. The VLE message board is really just for children to use. This is helpful for the teachers as currently they do not know if a VLE message is from a child or a parent.

### **(viii) Printing and IT equipment**

Printing: We are trying to keep the need for printing to an absolute minimum as we know that:

- (i) some households do not have a printer,
- (ii) printing uses resources.

If a teacher sets work for which printing out a particular resource is essential we will provide copies upon request. Seymour Estate Agents (116-118 High Street) have offered to print work for home learning if you do not have access to a printer. Email them on [nick@seymours-godalming.co.uk](mailto:nick@seymours-godalming.co.uk). Collection from their office.

IT Equipment: If you are struggling with IT equipment, and the juggle of sharing devices is becoming an issue, then please let us know. We may be able to help.



## **(ix) Ofsted Report on Remote Education**

The following link takes you to a report from Ofsted regarding their research into effective Remote Learning. It is an interesting read, if you feel the urge.

[What's working well in remote education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/what-is-working-well-in-remote-education)

### **Children's Online Choir**

Lisa Olsworth-Peter, the Music Worship Pastor from Busbridge Church, is organising a children's online choir for boys and girls who may be interested. This should prove to be great fun and a wonderful way to reach outside the home and participate in a social and group activity. Lisa is highly skilled and experienced, and the sessions will no doubt leave parents wanting a choir of their own (!). For information and booking please follow this link:

<https://www.bhcgodalming.org/childrens-lockdown-choir>

### **ELSA Resources**

As the amount of time away from school increases, we are aware that some children may struggle with their feelings around the virus and its impact on their lives. The Surrey Educational Psychology Service have recommended a book, Coronavirus by Axel Scheffler, which can be accessed by the following web link. <https://axelscheffler.com/books-for-older-children/coronavirus>. This might be a helpful way for you as parents to talk to children and allow them to ask questions.

### **Hardship and Food Poverty**

We are very aware of the negative impact this shut down will be having on families in many ways, especially financially. Those families who meet the threshold to receive 'free school meals' due to their income, benefits etc. are receiving some extra support. If you are experiencing hardship but didn't previously qualify for 'free school meals' do get in touch as we may be able to arrange some support for you, or you may now qualify for entitlement to 'free school meals' support. There has been a lot in the news recently about food poverty. We have ways of helping if you are struggling. Please ask.

Please remember that If you have a Safeguarding concern around any child please contact us or Surrey Children's Services: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/childrens-social-care/contact-childrens-services> or phone 0300 470 9100.

Take care

Kind regards



Richard Catchpole  
(Headteacher)

