

The Archer

School Newsletter NO 6

DEAR PARENTS/CARERS

UPDATE ON CURRENT SITUATION

We are currently only open to the children of critical workers and those deemed vulnerable, with both groups meeting the DfE criteria. The purpose of the current lockdown is to reduce the transmission rates of COVID-19 in the local area and thereby support local NHS services who are in danger of being overwhelmed. May I therefore request that if you are a critical worker you only send your child(re) to school when necessary. This will support this national undertaking.

Home Learning

Thank you to all our parents who are doing such a remarkable job in supporting home learning. I fully appreciate how difficult it is to balance work and home-schooling along with other family care and support. Many of us on the staff have the same experiences and commitments.

With home learning, we are utilising the Tapestry and SeeSaw learning platforms that the children and staff are familiar with. This allows you to access the work at times that best suits your own working arrangements.

As of next week, we will also be including some live catch-up sessions between teachers and children to maintain the sense of class community. Teachers will be reading and discussing stories and generally getting up to date with the children's learning experiences. We feel this is an important element in maintaining the connections between home and school.

We have avoided a transition to live lessons for a number of reasons;

- Live lessons cannot cater for the wide range of abilities within a primary classroom (unlike lessons provided for a streamed secondary school class).
- Live lessons are dependent on adult home supervision to maintain pupil attention, provide

support for any follow-on activities and to deal with any technical difficulties. Not all parents are able to provide this support due to their own working arrangements.

- When undertaking live activities with classes during 'bubble' self-isolation periods, there was a very low uptake on the offer.
- Due to the number of children in school at the moment, a teacher from each year group is providing the 'in-school' support, teaching the children by providing the same learning activities as the home learners. Moving to frequent live learning activities would prevent that teacher from being able to engage in the process.

Please be assured, you are doing a great job in difficult circumstances, if you experience any problems we really want to help. Please forward any enquiries through Class Dojo and we will attempt to respond in as timely a manner as possible.

SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS NEXT WEEK

I have timetabled teaching staff to be providing face to face teaching on a fortnightly rota. This allows all teaching staff the opportunity to provide a balance of school based and home learning across the six weeks to half term.

The critical worker and vulnerable children will continue to follow the same arrangements and access the same class rooms. Teaching staff in school for the next two weeks are;

Foundation Stage	Mrs Britten/Mrs Harrison
Year 1	Miss Westbrook
Year 2	Mrs Potts and Mrs Cooper
Year 3	Mrs Baker (Mon-Thurs), Mr Pollock (Friday)
Year 4	Mrs Franklin
Year 5	Miss Kerridge
Year 6	Mrs Coulson



'CAPTAIN HARRY'

Harry Steer in 4ST is looking to become the next Captain Tom by cycling 5km to raise money for the NHS. If you would like to support Harry, donations can be made via:

<https://justgiving.com/fundraising/harriscyclenhs>

Best of luck Harry, we look forward to hearing how you get on.

FOOD PARCELS

At the announcement of lockdown, we were concerned at the decision to issue food parcels to our Free School Meals children and opted for a voucher scheme instead. I am extremely grateful to Mrs Hill for managing this process and attempting to get the vouchers distributed as quickly as possible.

We are all living through very challenging times, please continue to support each other and stay safe.

P Langridge
Headteacher

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

We have been approached by a number of charities and parents of ex-pupils offering us unused/redundant devices for distribution to children to support home learning. This supports our own initiative to ensure children have suitable access at home.

If parents have any such equipment they would like to donate, they would be gratefully received. Upon receipt we would wipe any existing data and load with current and appropriate software. Please contact the school office or Pamila Hill if you can help.