



Newsletter January 2021

Message from Mrs. Orchard

It is hard to imagine where the last three weeks have gone, but I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for your support with the change to your child's learning and the numerous positive comments you have sent to us. We all appreciate this is not easy for you juggling your own work commitments with the children at home. Thankfully IT problems have been minimal so the learning for the children has continued seamlessly. The staff have done an outstanding job to get the lessons prepared and delivered through TEAMS with limited training; I cannot thank them enough for the professionalism they have shown in order to ensure learning continues.

It is important that your child logs in to register am and pm because we have to return attendance to the DfE daily. A child not in class has the absence recorded as unauthorised. If IT is down, please send me a message on the school phone or contact Mrs Bridge so we know you are continuing with learning even if access to TEAMS has failed.

IT Issues

It is most impressive that so many of you have been able to log in and join TEAMS with no problems. Where there have been issues the majority of complaints have been resolved quickly. If you experience TEAMS difficulties, please contact the school and I can direct the IT department to support. However, they are not able to support with internet connections at home.

I have available 90day SIM cards that can be used in a computer/ phone if there are problems

Mrs. Bryant

Sadly, Mrs Bryant has resigned from her post as TA in KS1 and will be leaving us at the end of the term. Mrs Bryant has been with us just over a year and in that time has made a tremendous contribution to the classes and children she has supported. I am sure you will join with me in wishing her all the best for the future.

TD DAYS

Thursday 1st April 2021

Monday 5th July 2021

Friday 23rd July 2021

Critical Worker Children

Parents will need to register for February next week. I have spoken at length to the Regional Director re the staffing problem I will have with Mrs Bryant's departure. Please be aware that families may be asked to go to a different setting for provision. It will not be possible to send St Mary's children together. I will keep you informed as soon as I hear back.

Where there is a parent working at home the child should not be in school. It is important for everyone's safety that we follow the guidelines and reduce contact outside the family.

Remote Schooling

Thank you to all parents who have once again taken on the challenge of supporting your child's learning at home. During this lockdown, TWHF has chosen to use remote schooling with face to face sessions every day with the teacher. I know from the many comments I have received that you have appreciated your child being able to see their friends and teacher. I drop into classes every day and have been very impressed with the quality of learning taking place. I know you will appreciate the amount of time and effort the staff have taken to ensuring the remote schooling meets the curriculum they would have offered in school.

Please follow the guidelines during online learning: -

- Blur the background
- Teachers are asked to record the daily teaching. Please turn off the mike and camera when your child is working independently.
- Adults must not interrupt the teachers as they deliver the lesson – drop a note in the chat or contact on Dojo if there is an important message
- Non urgent messages direct to admin email
- Children should only use the chat box during lesson time to direct messages to the teacher, it is not to be used for messaging friends during the lesson.

Perseverance

Our value this term is perseverance; many of the children are showing this value as they adapt to remote schooling. I wanted to give a special mention to Florrie in YR who has demonstrated this quality brilliantly over the past couple of weeks. She has set herself the challenge of walking 7/8 miles each weekend to raise money for the Evelina Hospital in London. She wants to give them money so they can buy some nice things to make the poorly children feel better. She has raised over £700 so far and still going strong!

Florrie is out again this weekend, so if you would like to sponsor her please follow this link:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Florries20miles?utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_fundraiser_page_donation_received-nth_donation&utm_content=afd01042-fb51-4bdd-acbc-3b6c63c934ba&utm_medium=email&utm_source=postoffice&utm_term=1611145559681

Mum commented 'We're on 8 miles and doing 6 or 7 more this weekend, and then the same again next weekend. It's been such a positive thing so far and she's really enjoying getting all the messages of encouragement and looking forward to persevering to walk further this weekend!'

We will be thinking of you this weekend Florrie!