



Proud to be part of The White Horse Federation Multi-Academy Trust



Newsletter | 15

8th January 2021



Happy New Year!

Despite the restrictions, I hope you managed to have a good Christmas and New Year. I know that many of our families were affected by army deployments, often at the last minute. I also know that most of you were not able to see friends and family in the same way as usual.

Although many schools in the local area were not planning to open, all of our staff were ready to go and it wasn't until Monday evening, that we heard the Prime Minister's announcement that all schools would be closed due to Covid.

I know that this decision will have inconvenienced all families on top of the existing restrictions. However, all of the school staff worked extremely long hours between Monday night and Wednesday morning to prepare everything for the children's learning. The teachers went to great lengths to adapt their lessons (and living rooms!) ready for online learning; the teaching assistants all came into school to support children of critical workers; and the support staff worked many hours to organise the logistics and communications.

I understand that there were a few frustrations with access to the online learning and, in some cases, having enough devices at home, but the first three days have generally been a great success! I have been amazed by how well the children have quickly adapted to learning online! We had so much positive feedback about how great the home learning was!

Value of the Term:

Our new value for the term is Responsibility. This morning, the teachers celebrated a child in each class who has shown this value this week. Please take some time to talk to your children about what this means and why it is important.

Home Learning

Please be ready just before 9.00am for your children to start their learning each morning. Morning sessions run from 9-12 with some short breaks. Afternoon sessions start at 1.00pm and end by 3.00pm; afternoons are more flexible with some independent periods and breaks.

On Fridays, online learning finishes at 12 noon to give teachers time to prepare for the following week. This does not affect children who come into school.

All children in Years 1-6 need to write in an exercise book so please contact school if you didn't collect one this week. In these year groups, children will also need to sit at a table so they can write neatly.

ICT Problems

Class Teachers cannot sort out ICT problems while they are teaching but any queries can go to them through Purple Mash.

- If you can't log-in to Teams or the class group, please contact the school office so we can check your username and password for you. If this works, we can resend the details to you so you can try accessing teams again.

Access to Devices

If you do not have a separate device for each child in your house, we fully understand. Here are some ideas:

- Take it in turns so each child has some time with their teacher.
- Use the Purple Mash resources so one child can work independently.
- **Most lessons are recorded and saved in 'Files' on the class Team, so children can watch back lessons later in the day.**

Texts and Theme for this term:

Although most children are learning from home, the teachers are still using the themes and texts they planned beforehand. These are as follows:

Ducklings, Robins, Wrens: In the Woods...

The Gruffalo, We're going on a Bear Hunt, Stick Man, Little Red Riding Hood, Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

Year 1: Knights, Castles and Dragons

Zog by Julia Donaldson

Year 2: Knights, Castles and Dragons

The Dragon and the Nibblesome Knight by Elli Woollard and Benji Davies

Year 3: Ancient Egyptians

The Egyptian Cinderella by Shirley Climo

Year 4: Ancient Egyptians

The Time-Travelling Cat and the Egyptian Goddess by Julia Jarman, and *I Was There: Tutankhamun's Tomb* by Sue Reid

Year 5: Capital (London)

Alex Rider: Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz

Year 6: Capital (London)

The Wind in the Walls by Sally Gardner and *Alma*

Children's Absence

If your child is poorly and is unable to work due to illness, please contact the school in the normal way, via the answer machine.

For parents of children still coming into school:

Please note, you must still follow the Covid rules and **no children must come to school with any symptoms or if members of the household have symptoms**

Guidance on Symptoms

If your child develops any symptoms of Covid-19, he/she and any siblings must not come into school for 10 days from the first day of the symptoms.

Symptoms are:

High temperature; New/Continuous Cough; Loss of Smell or Taste

You must arrange for your child to be **tested** as soon as possible.

If your child receives a **negative test**, he/she and any siblings may return to school.

If your child receives a **positive test**, he/she and any siblings should remain off school for 10 days from **the date of the positive test and school must be notified**.

If it is known that your child has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19, your child must isolate for 10 days, even if they have no symptoms.