



Newsletter Friday 15th January 2021



Message from Mrs Grainger

As we venture further into this 'whole new world' of Remote Learning please remember that this is not something the staff team are used to doing. Like many of you, we are adjusting to help give your children the best chance in terms of wellbeing and learning. So please do bear with us.

Thank you for your incredible support and positivity. It really is helping us to ride this rollercoaster with a smile! Please continue to send your positive messages of support, as these are always shared with staff and really help the team to feel valued and appreciated.

We would like to thank our wonderful children who have been completing their remote learning - and to you, for doing such a brilliant job in balancing family life, home learning, and in many cases, working from home. I take my hat off to you all!

Please be kind to yourselves - these past 10 days have been a huge challenge for us all, and you are all doing your best. If you are struggling to manage all of the home learning set, I would recommend prioritising the 3 pieces that need to be sent to school for feedback, as well as daily reading. If home learning is causing friction, then please just pack it up for the day and start again tomorrow.

Effective learning will not take place if a child or parent is anxious. You all did a brilliant job last time and I know you will continue to do so again.

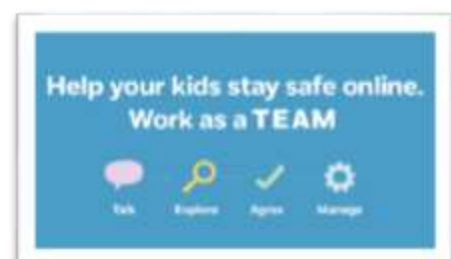


Staying Safe Online

One of the positives which has come from Covid is the fact that we are all using technology we hadn't even heard of last year!

From Zoom to Teams, uploading and downloading content and communicating with friends and family online has become the way of the world. Whilst the majority of this is hugely beneficial and positive, there are always the negative aspects of the internet and we would urge you to ensure your family is safe at home. Please check over your internet settings to ensure the appropriate filters are on and double check that these apply to all devices that children have access to. If children are using devices which do not have the filters (such as an adult's personal phone or tablet) please supervise them so you know what they are accessing. Often (and slightly embarrassingly for us!) the children know more about the internet than we do and they are quite proficient in navigating it so if you do need any extra help, the NSPCC has some great advice about not only the practical's of what to do, but how to support your children if issues do arise.

Please use the following link for more information from the NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>





What has your child been learning about in class this week?

Years 1 & 2

This week has been a super week for the children in KS1. We have had TEAMS meetings with the children who are learning remotely at home and we have worked with children in school. The children at home have been learning the same things as those in school. We are very pleased with the quality of the work that the children are doing both at school and home and are really pleased with the amount of work being sent in for us to give feedback on.

We have seen some very happy, smiley children on the TEAMS meetings and we have loved having the daily contact with them too.

From next week there will be more recorded lessons for the children to access at home as well as the regular daily TEAMS meetings.

The children have loved creating London landmarks and comparing the city of London with another city.

Thank you for all your hard work during this time.

Years 3 & 4

Years 3 & 4 have been really busy this week with their learning. We have been learning how to write biographies using Ed Sheeran as an example.

It has been lovely seeing how people have worked so hard to achieve this and we hope children have found it quite interesting as well!

Our new theme is all about sound so over the next few weeks there will be a chance for the children to learn the key vocabulary to this. We always include a couple of words from theme in spelling lists to learn for a test. Spellings are an activity which children can do independently. Little and often is the best approach to this learning and we suggest just 10 - 15 minutes daily to help the new spellings 'sink in'! Please remember that times tables rockstars is also a daily activity which makes such a difference to children's maths.

It has been great making contact with home this week via TEAMS. Each class teacher in Years 3 & 4 will meet with their class for a daily catch up. The times for classes are:

Sycamore 3.00pm

Chestnut 3.00pm

Maple 10.30 am

There will also be an increasing number of 'live' or 'recorded' learning sessions for children to access on TEAMS - see the earlier communication for more details on this remote learning.

Years 5 & 6

All of our Year 5 & 6 students, whether at home or in school, are well underway with our new theme: 'Blood Heart.' We have made a start on our class text 'Pig Heart Boy,' by Malorie Blackman and we are enjoying the story very much. In writing, we have been learning more about the author and discovered that she had read all of the children's books in her local library by the age of eleven (that's around the age of our pupils!) In maths, Year 5 have been consolidating multiplying by two digits and Year 6 are being stretched with some algebra. In theme, we have learnt a wide range of vocabulary associated with the blood and circulation; the children are very interested and keen to develop their knowledge. We have also begun to learn about the anatomy of the heart by labelling diagrams.

We would like to congratulate those pupils who are working at home for working so hard in quite challenging circumstances. We are developing our IT skills together and gaining confidence when using Teams for our daily assemblies online. I'm sure as the weeks go by, our skills will improve even more. Keep up the good work everyone. We look forward to seeing your smiley faces on screen again next week.

National Curriculum Statutory Assessments

The Prime Minister announced that the Government recognises that due to further disruption, Key Stage 1 (KS1) National Curriculum assessments will not continue as intended.

The following assessments for 2021 have been cancelled:

- End of Year 2 KS1 SATs
- Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

These arrangements will apply for 2021 only, and the Government are planning for a full programme of assessments to take place in the 2021/22 academic year. This will include the introduction of the statutory reception baseline as previously announced.

Contact Telephone Numbers

Did you get a new mobile as a Christmas present? If so then please remember to let us know if your number has changed. You would be amazed at the number of parents who we try to contact only to find that their details have not been updated. This also includes landline numbers when you move house! Thank you for keeping school informed.