

# New Close News

18th January 2021

Head Teacher - Mrs L Kilminster

Dear Parents

So after a couple of weeks of lockdown, we are beginning to settle into our new but very strange routine. I would like to thank all those parents who are supporting their children at home with their learning – we appreciate that this is a challenge at times. Last week we asked you to complete a home learning survey, to share your experiences for you and your child at home. We were delighted by the positive feedback and the helpful suggestions given.

## Summary of survey

*Web page with work is clear and easy to follow*  
*Work set is at an appropriate level for most*  
*Quantity of work is appropriate for most*  
*Communication between home and school is good*  
*Quick feedback to work is appreciated*  
*Live teaching is enjoyed and beneficial to all*

## Other ideas/questions

*Build in opportunities for catch up sessions*  
*Build in some other fun 'downtime' sessions*  
*Keep the class web page live for longer so parents can access the work at other times*  
*Does it matter if on some days we don't get everything completed?*  
*Can we adjust the timetable sometimes to suit what is happening at home?*

As a result of your feedback and after discussions with staff we plan to continue with the way in which we are delivering our learning as this is working well for all. As we go through the next couple of weeks, we will start to build in other opportunities for some slightly different activities that will support the children's mental and physical well-being.

In response to the questions asked about the timetable and completing work, we have emphasized to parents in emails and phone calls, that families need to do what they can, when they can. A balance needs to be achieved so that school work and family life can continue without it causing stress or strain. It is important that your child attends their live lessons and the English and Maths activities should be prioritised above the other subjects. The timings for the day are a guide only.

Please remember to email staff the work that is completed daily, this enables us to offer support and encouragement to your child and we are then able to adjust the next day's learning accordingly. We are continuing with our weekly phone calls too. Please answer the phone to a No caller ID number or the school phone number. This is an opportunity for you to discuss with a member of staff any issues you might be having (academic/pastoral).

We continue to offer provision to those children of critical workers. These children are accessing the website work set by teachers but supported by the teaching assistants in school. Again I would like to thank the parents of these children who are working with us to only book sessions for days that are needed, as we are almost at full capacity based on our staffing ratios.

It is essential that we follow the DFE guidance –

*'Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can'.*

It may be that if additional places are required we will need to develop a priority list or ask for evidence from employers of shift work rotas. We appreciate that some of your work is critical to the Coronavirus response and it remains our aim to ensure that those children have places in school.

Once again, thank you for your support. Please do get in contact with us if you are concerned about any matter.

Kind regards

Mrs Kilminster

## Celebration Assembly

Watch my prerecorded celebration assembly every Monday, where I will be announcing the stars of the week and the house point scores. You can find this assembly at the bottom of each of the class pages.



### Email addresses

[head@newclose.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:head@newclose.wilts.sch.uk)

[office@newclose.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:office@newclose.wilts.sch.uk)

Rabbit class - [ct@newclose.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:ct@newclose.wilts.sch.uk)

Squirrel Class - [bs@newclose.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:bs@newclose.wilts.sch.uk)

Otter class - [he@newclose.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:he@newclose.wilts.sch.uk)

Fox class - [ll@newclose.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:ll@newclose.wilts.sch.uk)  
[lk@newclose.wiltssch.uk](mailto:lk@newclose.wiltssch.uk)

### Emailing work to class teachers

Please remember to email your child's work to their class teacher at the end of the school day.

Where possible please send it as one email as it is easier for us to respond.

If you email us later in the evening it is likely that we will not be able to respond until the morning.

### **PE LESSONS**

Please can the children who are in school, wear their PE kit to school as follows:

KS1 bubble (excluding nursery): every Tuesday

KS2 bubble: every Friday



The Wiltshire  
**WELLBEING HUB**  
For vulnerable people in need of support

**0300 003 4576**

 [wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk)

#WiltshireTogether

 Wiltshire Council

The banner features a large blue telephone handset icon on the right side, set against a background of teal and blue gradients.



You can now follow and like us on our Facebook page to keep up-to-date with what's happening in school...

[www.facebook.com/newclose.school](https://www.facebook.com/newclose.school)



Below is a link to vacancies within the Acorn Education Trust:

<https://acorneducationtrust.com/job-vacancies>

## LEGO CLUB VIRTUAL BUILDS

Don't forget to send us your pictures of your builds – you have until the start of school on Thursday.

Please send the pictures of your build to either me or Miss Allman at:

[vhg@kingdown.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:vhg@kingdown.wilts.sch.uk)  
[ema@kingdown.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:ema@kingdown.wilts.sch.uk)

*The Challenge this week is: **Weather***

*I am thinking about rainbows, snowflakes and lightning!*

*You could make a huge weather system like a tornado or, try a delicate snowflake or even a glorious sun!*

*If you do not have much Lego – a rain droplet would be great.*

*If you are feeling super enthusiastic – a colourful weather map would be amazing!*

*Perhaps you have no Lego at all - draw or create on the computer a picture showing us your Weather build. Tell us all about what you have made and why you have chosen that design.*

We will judge your builds looking at the following categories:

- the most original idea,
- the greatest skills,
- the most attractive model
- the most inventive ideas

We will send the winners a certificate by email.

You have until **Thursday** to send us your pictures for this build.

Good luck and good building!  
Mrs Griffiths and Miss Allman.



**Lego Challenge**

# Weather



Please send your build to:  
Mrs Griffiths – [vhg@kingdown.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:vhg@kingdown.wilts.sch.uk)  
Miss Allman – [ema@kingdown.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:ema@kingdown.wilts.sch.uk)

The deadline is Thursday 21st January.