



Yaxham Church of England (VA) Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs Jennie Müller
Chair of Governors: Mrs Michelle Parnell
15th January 2021

Dear Parents,

I am sure lots of you are ready for the weekend! Everyone has adapted to well to the changes. Hopefully you will have seen how staff have built on previous experience to enhance what we are offering. Whilst the 'live' element remains a challenge for us and families with limited internet access, we are building on what we can record to allow parents to access at a time that works for them. We will build on 'live' sessions in the coming weeks to allow a form of connection with classes, as we know that is what children really miss in these circumstances.

As shared within the Remote Learning Policy, if we don't hear from you staff will make contact from time to time to see how things are going, either by email or phone. Please be aware that staff are required to work from home for part of the week so you may receive a call from an unknown number.

Testing

We will continue to do all we can to ensure children make the best progress possible during these challenging times. We are pleased that the government have announced to suspend all statutory testing for the remainder of the academic year. Whilst we will still be teaching to the curriculum, this will allow us all to focus on the needs of the children without undue pressure. We will work closely with high schools in the coming months to provide them with the information they need to support children moving up in September, ensuring that children are not disadvantaged by this.

Hedgehog Class

We are pleased to welcome Miss Grace Duthie who will be carrying out her PGCE teaching placement with us in the coming months. You will find activities she has planned for the children along with other learning for the class on Tapestry and the

website. I know Hedgehogs have already met her on Tapestry, she is really looking forward to getting to know the children, virtually or in person!

Miss Watson has been selected for Jury Service from Monday 18th January, this is expected to last for two weeks. We had made plans to cover in school had this been under normal circumstances, however with the current situation we were unsure if it would go ahead. We received confirmation today. She has done a fantastic job preparing for her absence, ensuring there will be as little disruption to the children as possible. As well as myself and other teaching staff, Miss Duthie and Mrs Saunders will continue to support Hedgehog Class. I am sure Miss Watson won't be able to resist checking in from time to time if she gets the chance.

Other Messages

Parent Support and Free School Meals

We are happy to say that the Local Authority are working hard on our behalf to ensure that children and families receive the support they need. This include during school holidays. Please find the latest information on their website, along with details of how to apply if you think you are eligible.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk>

I have attached a leaflet outlining other support available. Should you experience any form of hardship during these challenging times, please so get in touch, we will do our very best to signpost you to relevant support.

Telephone

Whilst there are less adults in school, the telephone will not always be answered. If you need to call, please do leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Opening times

The hall is open for the collection of resources and reading books 9.30-10.30am Monday -Friday and 1.30-2.30pm Tuesday - Friday. Please do let us know if you need anything so that we can leave it ready for you.

Norfolk Libraries - Storywriter's Club

Story Writer's Club is a friendly, fun Zoom group for 7-11 year-olds who enjoy bringing their stories to life on the page.

Sessions will recommence on Thursdays at **4.15pm**; they will start on **21st January** and run for 4 weeks until February half term, with the last one being Feb 11th.

Come along to share ideas or discover new ones and meet other people who enjoy creating too. To find out more, please email libraries.iconnect@norfolk.gov.uk.

Skipping Workshops

Most children are going to be out of school for the next few weeks. Obviously, teachers and parents are concerned that children continue to have plenty of healthy exercise.

To help children & parents interested in encouraging skipping we have a series of brief videos that illustrate various skills & challenges. Please scroll down to the bottom of the home page of our website;

www.skipping-workshops.co.uk or simply use this link: <http://www.skipping-workshops.co.uk/videos/>

[happy skipping](#)

Thank you once again for your support.

Wishing you all a well-earned rest over the weekend!

Mrs Jennie Müller

Dates for your Diary:

End of half term 12th February 2021

Return to School 22nd February 2021

End of term 26th March 2021

Return to School 12th April 2021

End of half term 28th May 2021

Return to school 7th June 2021

End of term 21st July 2021