



Temple Grafton

Church of England Primary School

1st May 2020

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE - 3

Good afternoon

As we come to the end of another week of learning at home, I wanted to start this week's newsletter by sharing some thoughts on the pressures that we may all be experiencing right now.

As parents, you may be feeling that you are 'doing it wrong', 'not doing enough' or that others are doing it better or differently with greater degrees of success. I know that I have certainly experienced all these feelings in terms of my role as head of TG! Social media, does I think, play a significant part in fuelling these emotions. There is no doubt that Facebook, Teams, Zoom and What'sApp, to name but a few, provide us all with the means of maintaining our connections with each other which are so essential to our well-being. However, they can also lead us to feel woefully lacking if we try to compare ourselves with what others are doing – I know that if I tried to match everything that I see that my fellow heads are doing across the country, I would end up feeling completely inadequate. Comparing ourselves with what others are doing is not helpful. Taking inspiration from others to use in my own way to meet the needs of our school community has been really useful as part of the process of adjusting to new and unfamiliar ways of working. I have faith in the belief that I am doing what works best for us and in the same way I hope that you will all trust in yourselves to be doing the best for your families.

It is important for us all to recognise that we are doing the best that we can. Each and every one of us is facing challenges that we never knew existed up until a few short weeks ago and none of us were fully prepared to meet them. There is no right way that will work for everyone and we are all doing our very best to cope in our own ways. Please do not feel anxious about how you are supporting your child's learning. In this current situation there is no such thing as 'enough' learning or a 'right' way to learn at home. If you are feeling worried, please get in touch with us at school; give us a call or send an email and we can arrange a time to call you – we are here to help.

The TG staff will continue to provide you with the learning resources which we hope will support you and your children to be able to learn at home. As always, it is not compulsory and should not be done at the expense of your wellbeing. The guidance that we provide through our communications is simply that, guidance. If we can provide any further help or support, please get in touch.

Teams Class Catch-Ups

It was a real boost to all the staff to engage with the children in the Microsoft Teams sessions this week and we were delighted that so many of you were able to join in. Having the opportunity to catch up with each other and share news will, we hope, play an important role in helping the children to stay connected with the school, their friends and their teachers during the period of school closure. Next week's sessions will be at the following times:

- **Monday 4th May Class 3** Year 3 1:00, Year 4. 2:00
- **Tuesday 5th May Class 1** Green team - 10am; Blue team - 10.30am, and Red team - 11am
- **Tuesday 5th May Class 4** Year 5 10:00; Year 6 11:30
- **Wednesday 6th May Class 2** Year 1 10:00, Class 2 Year 2 11:00



Teams Home Learning Assignments

Thank you to all the children who have accessed the home learning through their Class Teams. All the staff have really enjoyed sharing your learning with you and it has been lovely to be able to feedback directly to the children in response. We know that there are children who are pursuing other interests: you are also able to upload your own photos and files to the assignments page using the **+ add work** at the bottom of the page. By doing so through assignments, it helps staff to be able to respond to the children. Please note that once an assignment has been submitted, the option of adding work is no longer available for that week's assignment. If you wish to add more after 'turn-in', or have accidentally submitted it too soon, just email your class teacher who will then return the work; once it is complete, just turn it in again.



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White Rose Maths



From Monday, the content of White Rose Learning at home resources will match up with the BBC Bitesize daily maths lessons. White Rose have announced that the worksheets for each lesson will only be available to schools that subscribe to White Rose; at TG we do and so will be emailing copies of the worksheets (and the answers) out with the learning projects each week. We will also make them available on the Teams Class pages. For those who would like a paper copy, we can print them off so that you can pick them up from school.

Teddy Bear Corner Menus

We hope that you will have received the email with the TBC menu for next half term. As stated in the email, we have no indication that school will be opening but TBC want to have menus in so that they can be prepared if there is a change in the current arrangements. In a change from our usual system, please email your completed menus directly to TBC on tbcoffice1996@gmail.com .TBC only require the menus and there is no need to send payment until we know for certain that meals will be provided.



Access to Electronic Devices

We have a small number of electronic devices that we are now in a position to be able to loan out to families who are unable to access the online learning resources because of a lack of equipment. These are TG school devices. If there are any families who feel that this would be of help, please contact us either by calling the school office between 9:00 and 3:30 (Monday – Friday) or emailing us on admin3066@welean365.com . Devices would need to be collected from school and returned once school reopens.



Free School Meals

We know that for lots of people the current situation has led to significant changes to their financial circumstances. This may mean that families are now eligible to apply for free school meals. During the closure, the government is funding weekly supermarket shopping vouchers of £15 per child. If you feel that you may be eligible please use the link to apply <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals> . Once registered, we can activate the supermarket vouchers for you which will sent out via email.



Bank Holiday



As we know that having a regular routine is helping many families, class teachers will set learning activities in study ladder etc for the bank holiday next Friday. As always there is no expectation that they will be completed and we are very happy for families to choose not to access the activities if they prefer.

Curriculum weblinks

This week on our Facebook, we have been sharing links to websites offering resources for learning activities to do at home linked to different areas of the curriculum.

We have shared these links on the following page.





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History

<http://digschool.org.uk/> - A series of free, fun online archaeology-themed workshops devised by Professor Carena Lewis from the TV Time Team programme

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/students/time-travel-tv/> - The National Archives are inviting children and families across the country to join them for Time Travel TV! Each week, on a Tuesday and Thursday, they will be broadcasting new sessions and bringing the archives to your armchair!

PE

<https://www.nhs.uk/10-minute-shake-up/shake-ups> - Change4Life and Disney have teamed up to bring you new Shake Up games inspired by Disney and Pixar's films.

<https://www.afpe.org.uk/physical-education/thisispe-supporting-parents-to-teach-pe-at-home/>

Sharing short two-minute videos that will show parents free, fun and easy to follow PE activities for the whole family to enjoy together

Art

<https://www.paulcarneyarts.com/online-drawing-home>

This is a website that has lots of tips and techniques on how to draw

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHSbzBcq6GaXSaSipDWInoA>

The Primary Art Class is a Youtube channel sharing art lessons with projects that can be completed by families at home.

Science

<https://pstt.org.uk/resources/curriculum-materials/Science-at-Work> each week Primary Science Teaching Trust is working with Spectrum Drama and St. Mary's University to create opportunities to meet past and present scientists and to learn more about people who do jobs that use science.

<https://pstt.org.uk/resources/curriculum-materials/Science-Fun-at-Home>

Also from the Primary Science Teaching Trust this time working with Science Sparks to create activities for children to have some fun with science at home – a new set of activities is shared every Wednesday.

<https://www.stem.org.uk/home-learning#educational-family-activities>

A selection of activities and materials, all of which are completely free for everyone to access to engage young people of all ages with science, technology, engineering and maths

Music

<https://www.singup.org/singupathome>

a website with free resources to help to keep children learning and singing outside of school.

<https://www.outoftheark.co.uk/ootam-at-home/>

A popular primary music site now sharing a new free song and lyrics each day – many of the songs will be familiar from our school assemblies.