



27th March 2020



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W O O D B O R O U G H C E V A P R I M A R Y S C H O O L

NEWSLETTER

Our bird box is live...



Special thanks to Mr Dale for helping set it up again. [Follow the website link](#) and do take a look... there's a nest taking shape!



Follow us on
Twitter

Dear Parents and Carers

Another week and another newsletter... however with a slightly different format and a rather different focus! We hope this weekly round-up finds everyone safe and well...

THANK YOU...

Thank you so much for your continued support for us and one another in what has been a challenging week for the whole community. We are grateful for the ways in which you have assisted our children through the twists and turns of home learning, whilst many of you are also trying to work from home in unusual circumstances and also manage the emotional aspects of the current situation.

PLEASE DO KEEP IN TOUCH...

This week we've been busy trying to arrange new ways of working with our pupils and families. We believe that we are now in touch with all of our pupils via Tapestry in Oak Class and Seesaw across all other classes - thank you. In the absence of our daily attendance registers and seeing our pupils face-to-face, a daily check-in to Tapestry or Seesaw, please (even if just to say 'hello'), will reassure us that everyone is OK.

CLASS EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR QUESTIONS & QUERIES...

Classes now all have their own class email addresses that follow our usual school format: Class@woodborough.wilts.sch.uk (e.g. Lime@woodborough.wilts.sch.uk) and class teachers are happy to respond to any school work questions and queries that arise.

FINDING A NEW WAY OF WORKING TOGETHER...

You will be aware that our school has remained open to provide support for parents and carers whose work roles are critical to the COVID-19 response. As such, and due to the indefinite duration of this requirement, we have arranged our teaching and support staff into three separate teams and have commenced working according to a three-week rota system: one week 'in school' - supporting children of critical workers and also classes via remote learning; one week 'working from home' - supporting classes via remote learning; and one week 'off'....

- At the time of writing, we're satisfied that we know what 'in school' looks like and we're hugely grateful to Team 1: Mrs Ashby, Mrs Johanson, Mrs Butler, Mrs Burley, Mrs Davies, Miss Marshall and Mrs Ellis, who've got us off to a flying start this week (do take a look at Twitter to see what they've been up to).
- 'Working from home' is a whole new approach (for staff and families alike) but we believe it is progressing well. Certainly, Tapestry, Seesaw, Twitter and email responses would all bear testament to its success so far. Refinements will follow but so far, so good!
- However, we've yet to establish what 'off' will look like and how it will afford some much needed down-time for our staff (and their own families too). This week, our 'off' team, like our 'working from home' team, have all been hard at work: trying to keep in touch with all pupils and responding to questions; researching and testing new methods and ideas; setting engaging tasks and being sure to respond to them; and much, much more. Moreover, our 'in school' team have done all of this too - most of it when they've gone home after school!

Please note, we are absolutely not seeking sympathy or to shirk from our responsibilities, we know we all have an important part to play in maintaining 'learning as usual', as far as is possible, for all of our pupils, and we are also very aware that we are asking lots of assistance from parents and carers to support this too. We are however mindful, that maintaining home-learning at the pace and intensity which is quickly becoming established, will not be sustainable for children, parents or teaching staff.



Our Christian Value for this term is:

FRIENDSHIP

Each term we have a focus on an important value in our school which is high profile in class and in Collective Worship.

In the current circumstances our current value couldn't be more important. We hope that [this link](#) to Mrs Needham's termly newsletter might provide some suggestions to help you think about FRIENDSHIP at home.



Congratulations to the following pupils who celebrate their birthdays this week (or have celebrated their birthdays since our last newsletter):

- Max P,**
- Isabel B,**
- Connor,**
- Thomas S,**
- William G,**
- Ella F,**
- Isabella T,**
- Bertie F**
- Arthur H**

Mission Statement

Woodborough School is about...

- Christian caring
- Happiness
- Inspiring
- Learning together
- Diversity
- Rewarding
- Enabling
- Nurturing

Next week, teachers will let their classes know, by means of Tapestry or Seesaw, where they are in our three-week rota. On 'in school' and 'working from home' weeks, classes can expect contact similar to the week we have just had. However, class teachers on 'off' weeks will communicate their expectations through a message at the beginning of the week and will share an explanation of how they plan to monitor children's work and respond to it - with a lighter touch.

Please keep us posted with your views of how things are going...

Please note that teachers will not be setting learning tasks during the Easter holiday weeks.

FINALLY, SOME OTHER THOUGHTS TOO...

We are all very aware that life is quite different for us all right now. Whilst learning at home is important, it can take many forms. Timetables might help, as might technology, and teachers can and will set age and ability appropriate activities, across as much of the curriculum as they can. We're really keen that our pupils keep practising their reading, writing and mathematics, but...

We also know that many children are feeling uncertain, they'll be missing their friends and what might initially feel like a school holiday, will probably lose its novelty value quite quickly. We really want them to keep in touch and say hello to us daily - so we know they are alright - but where, when and how their learning tasks are done is open to interpretation. Do get the children out in the garden, go on walks if you can, build dens, draw pictures, play board games, complete science experiments together, go on virtual visits, read books together and sometimes do nothing (and send us some pictures of if you can).

Please don't worry about your children 'going backwards' - they are all in this together and they will be alright. When we get back to school, we will all work together and meet their needs in tried and tested ways - we're good at that bit! Don't become frustrated if children are feeling reluctant to work at home - send an email to the class address and class teachers will see if they can help.

This time will pass and when it has, our children's mental health and well-being will be more important than whether they are working towards, at or beyond age related expectations. How children have felt during this time will remain with them long after the memory of the tasks we set them to do. So please keep supporting one another, maintain contact with us and let us know what more we can do to help.

Warmest, sincerest and safest best wishes from everyone at Woodborough School.

Other updates...

Our **Parent Support Adviser, Mrs Draisey**, is still very hard at work behind the scenes. We've updated her PSA page on the website with details of how you can contact her, her [new weekly well-being email](#), a weekly news-sheet from [Kizzy](#), her Labradoodle and other useful information we are receiving from other sources. [Do follow this link and keep checking back - we'll be adding lots more...](#)

New Supporting Home Learning page...

To support home learning, we're adding an additional page to our website providing external links to educational resources and activities you can make use of during this time. Keep

calling back to see what's been added.

Visit our new [website galleries](#) (regularly)...

Thank you for all the photographs we've been sent and do keep them coming, please. We have set up some new galleries on the school website and have a new email address: photos@woodborough.wilts.sch.uk so you can send photographs easily and we'll keep adding them.

If you've not yet followed [@w_woodborough](#) on **Twitter**, you're definitely missing a trick! Do take a look and keep up with what's happening... all our class teachers are on there too. **BIG THANKS to everyone who has Tweeted their support this week...**



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