



# Forefield Community Infant and Nursery School

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Headteacher: Mrs E. Haney

**'Learning and Growing Together'**



Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## Newsletter No. 8

Dear Parents,

What a week! Thank you all again for your patience and support as we navigate our way through Government guidelines, risk assessments, remote learning plans, Microsoft Teams etc. We have really appreciated the lovely, supportive emails, telephone calls and messages - they have meant a lot to us all during what has been a bit of a challenging week in school!!

This current 'Lockdown' is a whole new experience with very different expectations for us all. We know that this hasn't been possible for everyone owing to different circumstances, but we really want to say a big 'thank you' to those parents and carers who have managed to make alternative childcare arrangements and not requested a place in school. This has enabled us to work on ensuring that our remote learning offer is as good as we can make it (taking into account that teachers are having to teach in school as well ensure their lessons are in an accessible format for you to use at home).

### Accessing Learning Remotely

Please bear with us as we familiarise ourselves fully with **Microsoft Teams** as a remote teaching and learning tool. It is a steep learning curve for everyone. Mrs Roberts has compiled a **detailed guide** to support you, to support your child using the Teams package. This is available on the website and has been sent out via the app. If you are having any difficulties with passwords/using Teams, please do contact your child's class teacher via the classslefie email address and we will do our best to help.

We have taken the decision to **record lessons** rather than deliver numerous live sessions as we know that our young children do require support to access learning remotely and that you will all have very different circumstances at home which mean that you might not be able to support access to 'live' lessons at scheduled times. We have used the recordings so that you can access all the teaching content that children attending school will be receiving but at a time that is best for you. Lessons are sequential, so please do access them in date order. Reading your feedback, this seems to be working well for parents which is great to hear.

We will be posting **weekly, year group, Remote Learning Plans** on both the website and also on Teams. These plans give an overview of all the content being taught in school during the week with details of supporting teaching videos, Powerpoints and activities available through Teams. These plans will be **posted for 9am on a Monday morning**. Teachers will also be posting **English, Maths and Phonics lessons/activities on a daily basis**. This will remain on Teams so that it can be accessed flexibly at home.

We also do want to keep in **daily contact with children learning at home** and feel it is really important that they have an opportunity to keep in touch with all of their friends - also learning at home and those learning in school. This is why we are delivering '**live story/assembly sessions**' towards the end of the school day, every day. This week, we trialled this at 3pm for everyone, however, with the staggered collection times in operation in school, this has meant that for classes with an earlier collection time, sessions have felt a bit rushed. From next week, we will be adjusting times slightly to ensure quality sessions

for all classes. Please see year group newsletters for revised times for classes. We really hope all children will be able to join these sessions as often as possible.

### **Communication**

**Parent app** will be our main means of communication with parents. If you haven't downloaded the app, please do so to ensure that you can keep up-to-date. Miss Edwards and Mrs Gregory in the school office will be able to offer any support needed - please do contact them.

We will continue to send home our **year group, weekly newsletters** to keep everyone updated on this week's learning, learning that will be coming up the following week and any key information and updates pertinent to your child's year group/learning. We very much hope that this will help everyone to 'keep in touch' too.

Class teachers will also be making '**Keeping in Touch**' **phone calls** to children and families. This is just an opportunity to check that everyone is ok and to see if there is anything that we can help with. We hope that this will be on a fortnightly basis, however, if you have not received a call, please do get in touch with us if there is anything that you need either via the **class email** or telephone the school office and your child's class teacher will call you back. In order to ensure staff well-being, especially during this particularly challenging time, there is no expectation that staff will respond to emails after 6pm in the evening. I know that some staff may choose/be able to do so, however, this is not expected of them. All will of course respond as quickly as they can.

### **Using X Box or Play Station to Access Microsoft Teams**

It is also possible to access your child's Microsoft Teams account and home learning tasks using a PS4 or Xbox which may be useful if children are currently having to share devices.

To find further details search Google for instructions for your particular device. There are also various YouTube film clips to support access.

### **Spare Digital Devices**

You may have heard a lot about schools being able to access laptops/tablets through a Government scheme for pupils who do not have access to them. Unfortunately, this scheme is not open to children in EYFS or KS1.

In order to ensure that all of our children have a suitable device to access home-learning, and as we are unable to access the Government scheme, we wondered if any of our families might have devices that they no longer use and which they would be happy to donate to children who may not have access to a tablet/laptop or one device is currently shared by a number of children in the same household.

If you do have any devices which you no longer use and are happy to donate, please ensure that they are cleared of any personal information etc and then bring them along to the school office. We will then offer donated devices to families who I know will really appreciate them. Many thanks if this is something that you might be able to help us with.

### **Access to Free Data**

Should your current contracts not provide sufficient data for your child to access

learning remotely, please look out for a form that will be sent out on the app. Complete the form and we will apply on your behalf for access to free data to support your child's learning.

### **Homework for Children Learning in School**

Year groups will be setting homework challenges which can be accessed by all children whether learning at home or learning at school but they are especially for children learning in school in order for them to familiarise themselves with Microsoft Teams. We very much hope that we don't have to send year groups home to self-isolate, however, should this be the case, the more familiar children/parents are with the package, the smoother the change to 'home-learning' will be. Please do endeavour to complete the tasks with your child using your child's Teams account.

**Staff are working hard to ensure that the amazing progress that all the children made during the Autumn Term is maintained whether children are learning in school or at home and with your on-going support and help, I am sure that it will be. Please don't worry or struggle with anything - we are all here to help and to reassure that you are all doing a fantastic job in very difficult circumstances.**

### **Toast**

Toast Club will continue in school for those children who would like a mid-morning snack. The cost of Toast Club is £6 for this half-term. If your child would like a piece of toast for their morning break, please send in payment of £6 for the half-term in a named envelope in your child's book bag. Many thanks.

### **Extra-curricular Activities & Wrap-Around Care**

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer our programme of extra-curricular activities at the current time. These will resume once school is fully open and it is safe to do so.

All Saints Children's Ventures continue to offer Breakfast and Afterschool Club in the school's dining rooms. If parents need wrap-around care, please contact Janine Perry, Manager of Ventures, who will be more than happy to provide more information.

**Office :** 0151 924 5137

**Manager's Mobile :** 07895 926299

**General Email :** [Manager.ventures@gmail.com](mailto:Manager.ventures@gmail.com)

### **Free School Meals**

Parcels are available for all families with children eligible for free school meals who are learning from home. Please do call in to school when you are out on your daily walk and collect a parcel. After next week, we hope that the Government will make the voucher scheme available again and we will send more details to eligible families as they become available.

### **Reception & Nursery Intake September 2021**

All applications for Reception places in September 2021 must be submitted on line to [www.sefton.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/admissions) **by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 which is the final closing date.**

Nursery intake - For admission to the Nursery in September 2021, applications must be submitted by noon on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and parents will be notified of places by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021. If you require any additional information regarding admission to school, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Edwards or Mrs Gregory in the School Office.

For families who aren't familiar with Forefield, we will be hosting virtual parent tours. If you know any families who are interested in finding out more about Forefield Nursery or joining us in Reception in September 2021 or beyond. Please encourage them to contact the school office to book on to a virtual tour - dates are in the calendar below.

### **Dates for Your Diary**

#### **January 2021**

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Jan**                      **Closing date for Reception applications for Sept 2021**  
**Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Jan**                      7pm Virtual Parent tour

#### **February 2021**

**Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Feb**                         **Closing Date for Nursery applications for Sept 2021**  
**Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Feb**                         Finish for half-term break

**15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Feb**                    **Half-term break**  
**Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> Feb**                      6pm Virtual Parent tour

#### **March 2021**

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Mar**                         Notification of Nursery places for Sept 2021  
**Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar**                         6pm Virtual Parent tour  
**Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> Mar**                         end of term for Nursery children  
**Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Mar**                         end of Spring Term

**29<sup>th</sup> Mar to 9<sup>th</sup> April**     **Easter holiday**

#### **April 2021**

**Mon 12<sup>th</sup> April**                      **INSET Day - school closed to pupils**  
**Tues 13<sup>th</sup> April**                      **Children return to school**  
**Wed 21<sup>st</sup> April**                         6pm Virtual Parent tour

Our next newsletter will be circulated on Friday 22nd January 2021. In the meantime, do stay safe and take care everyone.

Yours sincerely

*E. Haney*

Mrs E. Haney  
Headteacher