



Forefield Community Infant and Nursery School

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22nd January 2021

NEWSLETTER 9

Dear Parents,



Well done to everyone for getting to grips with remote learning through Microsoft Teams (Zoom in the Nursery). The work that the children are completing is fabulous and you are all doing an amazing job whilst juggling everything else that you are all having to do whilst at home. The first few weeks of 2021 have been a steep learning curve for all of us - staff included. We have really appreciated all of the positive feedback that you have kindly taken the time to send in to school.



Home Learning

Now we are a few weeks in to our 'new normal' - some children learning at home, some in school and some a combination of the two; we have been reviewing our remote learning strategy, listening to your feedback and looking at ways that we can improve our approach for everyone. With something new, it is often the case that issues crop up which are hard to identify until we can see how things work in practice and obtain views from differing perspectives.



From your feedback, **recorded teaching videos have been well-received** as they are giving parents and carers more flexibility to access home-learning around personal home circumstances as well as the opportunity to replay the video should this be needed. We are mindful that owing to the age of our children, they do need adult support to engage with some of the teaching content and some of the follow-up tasks too, particularly with reading. We are trying our best to provide activities that can be completed with some independence, especially for children in Y1 & Y2.



Further to your feedback, we are **uploading teaching content daily** rather than for the week. From next week, lessons will be scheduled to **upload at 7.30am each morning** so they should be there, ready for you whenever you are ready to access them, including giving parents and carers time to print off any worksheets for the day should this be something that you wish to do.



Lessons are clearly labelled with the week and the lesson number in the teaching sequence. This is particularly for those children switching between learning in school and at home. It should also help if you are 'catching up' which at this tricky time is likely to be everyone at some point. As our curriculum is designed to be sequential, with lesson 3, usually for example, building on lessons 1 and 2 and week 2 building on learning in week 1, **we would recommend working through lessons in order**. Don't worry if you are a week or so behind, keep working through in order - this is more important than missing lessons out to 'catch-up'. We will be changing the submission date from weekly on a Sunday night to the end of the half-term break so hopefully, this should reduce any pressure that parents may be feeling when many of you we know are trying to juggle work as well as supporting more than one child at home and I am sure a whole host of other things too.



Healthy School



Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values

Year groups have/will be **posting a suggested timetable** showing how we would recommend the 3 hours of daily teaching and learning that we have to facilitate (Government Guidelines), could be completed. If on some days, you are unable to complete all of the lessons/tasks, we would recommend you **prioritise the following lessons**:

Nursery - try to join at least one out of the two Zoom sessions per day and select a couple of the activities from those Mrs Evans suggests.

Reception - prioritise Phonics, Maths and then English followed by the activities on the Remote Learning Plan.

Y1 - prioritise Phonics, Maths and English followed by the Foundation Subject activities on the Remote Learning Plan.

Y2 - prioritise Phonics if your child is working on the Phonics Programme, Maths and English followed by the daily Foundation Subject lesson.

and **then catch-up any sessions missed on a Friday** (see below for how Friday's will change from next week).

In all year groups, please do be guided by your child (to a point!!). If he/she is **struggling to concentrate**, break up the sessions with a **physical session** eg a Cosmic Yoga session or a Joe Wicks' session or one of the **other activities from the Remote Learning Plan for the Week**, that you think your child will particularly enjoy or ask them to choose the Foundation Subject activity that they would like to do that day. This may well help to engage your child in a task that they find a little trickier before going on to complete an activity that they are looking forward to doing. Do also **share feedback** from your child's class teacher with your child which may also help to keep them motivated. You may even want to start a **reward chart/Dojo chart** - this is one of our school strategies to keep the children motivated and engaged. Maybe they could receive a star, sticker or a stamp for completing a task and then draw up a list of rewards with you that they can work towards eg 10 stars = a new special pen or pencil; 20 stars = bake some crispy cakes for after tea; 30 stars = pick a comic or a visit to the park etc. We will be posting some **Reward Charts on the Home page of the Remote Learning Section** of school's website that you may like to use or copy.

We will be **continuing the 'live' story/sharing sessions** towards the end of the school day. I was able to join Class 2's session last Friday and it was lovely to see our friends at home and share some of the fabulous work that they had been doing that day. The children in school were thrilled to see their friends and to have an opportunity to say 'hello'.

As a result of parental feedback, from next week, we will be making some changes to **Home Learning on a Friday**. In order to support some families who are struggling to juggle everything, on Fridays, we will be posting a **short Phonics revision lesson, a short CLIC Maths activity** and then give children an opportunity to **'catch-up' with any lessons missed** including Foundation Subjects and activities on the Year Group Remote Learning Plan. Year Groups will also be posting some **optional additional challenges** or stand-alone lessons for anyone who has completed the week's learning tasks. We hope this gives an opportunity to 'catch-up' and helps to reduce the pressure I know some families are feeling even though we know everyone is doing their very best under difficult circumstances.

Should you have any queries/questions, please continue to email your child's class teacher or contact us via the admin email address at the top of the letter. We will of course continue to welcome your feedback and will use it to ensure that our approach to School/Home Learning is as effective as we can make it for everyone including ensuring that it is manageable for our staff whether working in school or from home.

Access to Free Data

Should your current contracts not provide sufficient data for your child to access learning remotely, please complete and return the form that has been sent out on the app. This will enable us to apply for access to free data to support your child's learning, on your behalf.

Spare IT Devices

Thank you to families who have donated spare devices which are now with our technicians to set up prior to distribution to families who I know will really appreciate them in order to make full use of the home learning opportunities provided.

If you do have any devices sat in a cupboard 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 do have a number of families who will be really grateful and make very good use of them. Many thanks if this is something that you might be able to help us with.

Free School Meals

Just a reminder that although all children in the Infants are entitled to a free school meal (Universal Infant Free School Meals), parents can still apply for 'free school meals' which children will then be entitled to receive until they leave the Junior School at the end of Y6. This is different to and should not be confused with, the daily free meal that all infant children are entitled to.

Applying is really straightforward and Miss Edwards in the school office is more than happy to provide more information or a form to complete if you think that you might be eligible. A successful application means that school secures additional funding which (under 'normal circumstances') is used to fund extra-curricular activities for your child, trips and visits, snack and Toast Club and additional support and resources. Under current circumstances, families are also receiving shopping vouchers which I'm sure is an extra help during these tricky times.

You can check eligibility by following the following link or please do contact Miss Edwards on 0151 924 6235.

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/schools-learning/grants-and-funding/free-school-meals.aspx>

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

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

March 2021

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

29th Mar to 9th April **Easter holiday**

April 2021

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

Our next newsletter will be circulated on Friday 5th February 2021. In the meantime, do stay safe and take care everyone.

Yours sincerely

E. Haney

Mrs E. Haney
Headteacher