



Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to start off this week by saying Thank you. This thank you is for all the parents and carers who are doing a fantastic job at home during this difficult time. We know that it is not easy and that you are juggling live sessions, work set, sometimes two or more children, your own work, younger siblings, housework, meal prep and trying to have fun and stay sane at the same time. Please be kind to yourselves and focus on the bits that are possible for you, without worrying about the bits that are not. This is not home schooling by choice. This is not the same as having made an informed decision about educating your children at home yourself, this is trying to do their school work at home. We think you are doing a fantastic job, and the teachers are grateful for your communications and efforts.

We are able to give additional support in a number of ways:

- The government scheme which provides additional data via various providers, or if you have no Wi-Fi, possibly a 4G wireless router.
- If you receive Free school meals we are currently providing food parcels for pick-up from midday on a Monday. This is likely to convert to a voucher soon.
- Our TA's are providing brilliant additional input where needed.
- Loaning brand new iPads to families to enable them to access Teams.
- Communication with Class Teachers or Headteacher to discuss your individual situation, with a view to arranging the best support for you.

You will be aware of the ever changing picture coming from Government as they learn more and as the National picture develops. The Department of Education guidance published on Friday, regarding the children of Key Workers stated that - 'Parents should keep their children at home if they can' This was particularly in relation to families where only one of the carers is a key worker. We are therefore asking all our parents to follow this request. We are asking you to consider this approach, at this time, so that we follow the guidance provided by the Home Secretary, Priti Patel, during her Downing Street press conference on Wednesday. The Home Secretary requested that the public limit their movements outside their homes to essential visits only. Yesterday saw the U.K report a record number of deaths being recorded since the start of the Pandemic - 1,564, with 47,525 new cases recorded. We are ever aware of increasing cases within our own community, and we have had to close three of our bubbles due to asymptomatic positive pupils—there is no doubt it is ever closer. However, please be assured that we are here and open for those families that need us, without question.

We have always endeavoured to keep you informed of the rationale that informs the decisions we take whilst offering all the support that we can. We always place the safety of our students, staff and their families at the forefront of these decisions. I hope you understand our request and fervently hope that we are able to accommodate all our students back on site as soon as possible.

So, for now I ask you to Stay Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives.

Please keep safe. Best Wishes

Suzanne Farr

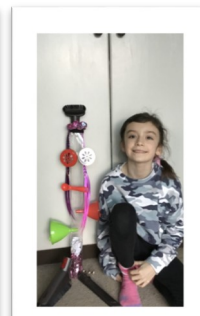
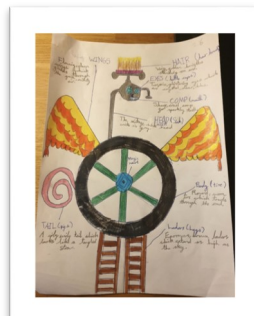
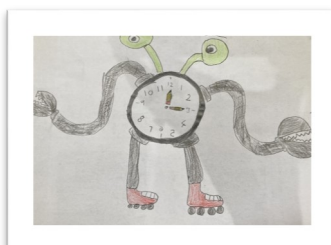
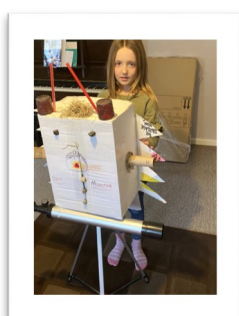
If you are taking your daily exercise near the school, please be on the lookout for some decorative windows. You will soon see some bright and colourful displays to raise a smile during this wet and damp weather. If you have any suggestions for our windows, please let us know.



We miss you!

To all our wonderful children working so hard at home, we miss you. We think about you all the time and can't wait to see you soon. If you want to send me any news, photos or work for our newsletter, that would be brilliant.

Year 4 have looked at the book called "The Lost Thing" by Shaun Tan. In this book, Tan creates a world that merges the everyday with the uncommon and the just plain weird. The Lost Thing of the title is a curious amalgam of what could be best described as a teapot melded with a crab. After reading the book, the children in year 4 created their own Lost Thing with a combination of different objects.



Key Messages for home learning

I thought it might be helpful to address some of the more frequently asked questions:

1. What do I do if I'm having trouble with Teams?

In the first instance, refer to the support page on the Microsoft Teams website—they have lots of useful guides and you can usually find a solution. After this, contact your teacher via email or dojo, and we will do our best to help you, or refer it to our IT technician.

2. Why can't we have longer live sessions?

It is purely a logistical decision. Some families have more than one child and are sharing a device. By staggering the live sessions, it is easier for the children to access them, and due to the number of classes, we were only able to fit in 10 minutes per class for English and 10 minutes for maths. Teachers are adding an extra session in the afternoon each week for an informal whole class catch-up. Hopefully you have received information about this, if not, please contact your teacher.

3. The timings of the live sessions don't work for us, what should we do?

Please don't worry about this, we know it can be difficult. We do it at set times to support you in creating a timetable or structure at home, but you can access the recordings on the classes Team page to watch at your convenience.

4. Why can't I have the work the day before?

As you will appreciate, the Teachers are working incredibly hard in planning and preparing the lessons, but also in the continuous contact through the day to support our children and parents. They are also providing feedback on up to 90 pieces of work that are being sent in. Before they can finalise the work for the next day, they need to see how the children achieved, they may need to adjust their plans as a result. If they were to prepare and send out the lessons the night before, it would mean asking them to work late into their evenings which I am not willing to do. Staff well-being is just as important as our children's well-being.

5. Why are some bits of work not given feedback?

Again it is a question of workload. It would be an impossible task for teachers to provide developmental comments on every piece of work. All work is seen and looked at carefully, but not all will receive comments.