



Friday 22nd January 2021

LOCKDOWN 3 NEWSLETTER 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we have certainly appreciated the teamwork between home and school more than we ever have before.

We have had to adapt different provisions in school to manage unforeseen changes due to the current situation. For most of you, this will have gone unnoticed. Some of you have been quick to respond and have made your own changes to help us in school. Your no-fuss approach and support for us is especially valued by our staff this week. Thanks for putting your trust in us and working alongside us to give all of our children a calm, continuous period of learning.

HOME LEARNING

EYFS

Thanks to all of our little learners who have been busy at home this week! We have loved seeing you on Zoom and we know you are all enjoying our storytime videos in particular! Thanks to all of the parents and carers for your lovely feedback.

KS1 & 2

It has been wonderful to see the work being handed in from KS1 and KS2, who all now have iPads at home. We have seen children creating tutorial videos for each other in Y4, amazing papier mache planets in Y5, salt dough dinosaurs in Y1, Shields in Y2, Stone Age Time Travellers in Y3 and some great WW2 research in Y6.

Please remember to balance work time with rest time - fresh air and brain breaks will really help with engagement and keep those little minds (and big minds) going for longer!

READING

Reading is still one of the most important things you can do for so many reasons. You can't be bored if you're in the middle of an Roman adventure, or slaying dragons in a far-off land, or picking

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up tips on how to be naughty from Dirty Bertie. Whether you are in school, or at home, reading will always be there at your fingertips. Your iPad is home to 6000 books on **myOn**, and many of those can be quizzed on Accelerated Reader. Youtube has loads of videos of books being read out loud, especially picture books for younger children. Listening to a story is just the same as reading one. Always tell an adult before using Youtube though. reading through it If the books you have at home don't match your ZPD, don't worry. Feel free to read them anyway. And of course, enjoy all of the reading you are doing. Y3 to Y6 - remember to use Mrs Molloy's Google Classroom to chat about your reading, or ask any questions or just say hello.

Some amazing news for all of our readers. The Oak National Academy is sharing their website with us so we can access some of the things they are doing. This week, you can read Jacqueline Wilson's Book "The Story of Tracy Beaker" for free, watch the author herself talk about her love of reading, and take a look at the activities attached on the page. You can also of course take an AR quiz at the end. Here's the link:

<https://library.thenational.academy/>

SOME FURTHER GUIDANCE:

- The DfE recommends that your child learns for approx 3-4 hours per day.
- Go to Google Classroom everyday. Read the task instructions and read again.
- KS1 are sending completed work back via the 'Hand in' button. KS2 have been asked to add screenshots of work to their own Google Slides presentation. This will enable you, your child and the teacher to access their work all in one place. We understand that some children are finding this hard to do at present. We will hopefully get any issues sorted next week. Use the 'Hand in' tool for now.
- Teachers will give feedback in different ways - either by comments on Google Classroom or on Google Slides (KS2). They may give whole class feedback on Zoom or on a pre-recorded video. **Please remember that teachers may not be able to feed back immediately or individually;** whilst we try our best, time and staffing may be limited for a variety of reasons.
- Please feel free to email or comment at any time - teachers will respond during the working day. Please do not expect replies during the evening or at weekends.
- Children can comment on the class stream; they can congratulate each other and ask their teacher questions. We want to avoid this stream being used for social chats as it is then difficult for the teachers to spot important messages.
- Weekly assembly videos will be posted to celebrate achievements and reflect on the week.

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- Weekly Oracy Challenges will be posted on Twitter for everyone to join in with.
- Keep reading! KS2 can discuss their progress on Accelerated Reader with Mrs Molloy on Google Classroom. Your child can show you their profile and targets on their iPad. Don't forget the myOn digital library of over 6000 books. Children can quiz on many of these books too. KS2 children have a target of reading for 30 minutes per day. Please try to encourage this at home. If you have a problem accessing books, please do ask.

ZOOM MEETINGS

These are proving to be the highlight of the day for everyone! Teachers, children in school, children at home and parents have all shown that they enjoy connecting with each other in this way. Some classes are holding Zooms at the start of the day, some repeat with a Q&A Zoom and some are conducting small group Zooms. We are trying to adapt to the needs of the children and the needs of the staff who may be at home or in school. We think we're all getting the hang of it!

Please do encourage your child to join the Zoom meetings. These will help to motivate and engage your child; they will enjoy seeing their classmates and gain feedback for any work already completed. Don't worry if your child can't join every Zoom. Invites will be sent via Google Classroom or Evidence Me. Children from Y1 to 6 have the Zoom app on their iPads.

Some things to remember:

- Sometimes there may be technical hitches - don't worry about them. Let us know if you need help.
- Try to give your child some quiet space to listen and join in.
- Dress appropriately. No nightwear please.
- Zooms are for the purposes of connecting with your children. Please do not record them for your own social media feeds. Please respect our teachers' privacy.

COMMUNICATION

This school year we have launched two new Apps, the **Arbor app and Parentapp**. We use both of these apps to communicate regularly with parents and carers, especially at the moment during these uncertain times. Currently we have 90% of parents/carers using the Arbor app and 77% of parents/carers using the Parentapp. If you have not downloaded the apps please check your emails as you will have received invitations for both. If you have changed your email address recently please contact the school office on admin@prescotprimary.org.uk and we can re send the invitations.

Did you know you can use our Apps to:-

Report your child's absence

Send us an in App message

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Pay for school dinners
Book and pay for clubs
Receive important/urgent communication

It is so important that we can communicate with all of our parents by the apps, as messages are received instantly. **Please sign up now!**

KEY WORKER PROVISION

School-based children have once again come into schools with smiles and have worked hard in class. Whilst we recognise how difficult home learning can be - and how much our children enjoy school - we want to repeat the guidance: **if there is an adult at home, children should stay at home - even if you are working from home.**

- Please book your child's key worker place by 11am every Thursday for the following week. Should your requirement be the same days each week during this 3rd lockdown, then please let us know and we will try to avoid chasing you!
- Please notify, by email, any changes to your requirements.
- Please notify by email if your child is absent due to sickness. **If anyone in your family begins to feel unwell with COVID symptoms, please keep your child away from school.**
- On the days your child is at home, they should continue with their home learning as it progresses across the week.
- **Please bring iPads into school fully charged. This has been an issue in some classes this week.**
- Please remember to 'top up' your child's meal account if they are having a school dinner. Please advise by email if there are any changes to your child's usual meal choice. (We have not charged for school dinners this week, so your balances will remain the same.)
- If you require a Key Worker place, please email with the preferred days and proof of your key worker status and we will contact you to discuss further.
- The email address for any of the above is admin@prescotprimary.org.uk

Thank you all for your unbelievable support regarding lunches this week. Staffing restrictions within our Kitchen Team lead to the closure of the canteen for the week and you all responded without fuss to our request for packed lunches. **Our kitchen will re-open on Monday 25th January but will only provide a reduced menu for at least the first two days of next week. Options will**

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include: paninis, jacket potatoes, beans on toast and sandwiches with a selection of fruit and cold puddings. We hope to provide more hot options from Wed 27th Jan onwards.

Unfortunately, we have had to close one of our Key Worker bubbles this week, due to a confirmed positive case. You will have been notified if this affects you directly. In the case of a 'bubble closure' we will call and email all those who are directly affected as soon as we can.

PLEASE REGULARLY CHECK YOUR EMAILS AND MESSAGES SO THAT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL IS AS STRONG AS CAN BE DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.

We have overheard a couple of children talking about visiting friend's houses during this period of lockdown. This of course, may be a memory from long ago or a complete misunderstanding but we would like to remind you that we expect all families to follow the lockdown rules of staying at home unless it is for an essential reason.

MASKS

As the transmission of COVID increases, we would like to offer our older children the choice of wearing a mask in school.

Children in Y5 and Y6 can **choose** to wear a mask but:

- It must be labelled with their name.
- It must be washed or changed daily.
- Children must be responsible for their own masks, eg, they must not leave it on desks, swap masks with others or lose them.
- We reserve the right to stop a child wearing a mask if the above conditions are not met.

We do believe the measures we have in place already are robust. This is an added option that we are introducing that is completely **OPTIONAL**.

OXFORD OWL BOOKS

Oxford Owl are selling many ebooks for 99p through their website with a link to Amazon. This runs until the middle of Feb. They offer all the popular authors. They also offer lots of their Reading Scheme books, such as Biff and Chip etc. for free. www.oxfordowl.co.uk

As the weeks pass, we are taking some comfort in the vaccine roll-out, responsive testing and the (slightly) longer days. We hope you and your families are enjoying time together and are staying safe and well.

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Have a peaceful and safe weekend,

Mr George and Mrs Seddon

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