



Friday 5th February 2021

LOCKDOWN 3 NEWSLETTER 4

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another week of this lockdown has come to an end and our school community continues to move forward together, with a mutual respect for individual situations, challenges and achievements.

Our teaching teams are working very hard to provide a range of activities that can be completed at home and in school, on screen and off-screen, with support or without support, with resources or without. This is no easy feat but is rewarding when we can see the work that the children produce. We have seen dinosaur eggs and play doh models of fossil hunters in Y1, tall, tall towers made from lots of different objects in Y2, magnificent cave art in Y3, sketches of Captain Sir Tom Moore in Y4, descriptive writing about scenes through a steam train window in Y5 and some fabulous digital art from Y6, showing lots of unique Wolves!

Children's Mental Health Week 2021

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

It has been great to talk to our children this week about how to keep our minds happy. Clearly, in these uncertain times, talking about mental health and well being should remain a priority for adults and children alike.

This year's theme of 'Dress to Express' illustrates the importance of creativity as a healing tool and we have looked at the power of art, music, dance and drama in improving our mood. We have also explored the power of exercise and outdoor activity and how important it is in lockdown to still get out for a walk.

Thank you to all of the children at home or in school who certainly did 'dress to express' today. What a lovely way to end the week.

Safer Internet Day - Tues 9th February

Next week sees the annual event to promote online safety and this year it is more important than ever.

Our children have probably spent more hours than we would ever have thought on a screen. Many have been spent learning online but we know that children enjoy gaming, dancing or chatting with their friends - especially when they cannot see them face to face.

As adults, we must stay vigilant and mindful of online dangers. From age-appropriate apps and games, screentime limits and online stranger danger, we cannot highlight enough the importance of talking to your child about their online life.

Are you sure that you know who all of their 'friends' are?

Are you certain that they would never share their school name, address or birthday?



How do they behave when gaming or chatting online?

How long do they spend on the game?

Next Tuesday is by no means the only day of the year on which to discuss these issues with your child but we would urge you to take the opportunity to start to talk about their life online. Please get in touch with us at school if you are worried about your child's safety online.

If you need further support, you can find our online safety newsletters on our website:

<http://www.prescotprimary.org.uk/information/online-safety>

Other useful sites:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2021>

https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en_uk/

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Fabulous reading news

With the Accelerated Reader programme, and myOn, that we use in school we have reading data at our fingertips like never before - even when most of our readers are at home!

So far our children have read 38.5 million words! That's 2.25 million more words than this time last year, and 6 million more than the year before. Brilliant news!

Mrs Molloy is holding a KS2 '**Weekly Whoop-whoop Lockdown Legend List**' prize raffle.

Everyone (at home and in school) who has read for at least 10 mins per day will be entered. A random name will be chosen and there will be a treat for the winner!

Thanks to Mrs Molloy for all of her reading expertise and motivation.

HOME LEARNING

EYFS

Another FABULOUS week of mini zooms and home learning adventures in EYFS! We are continuing to be blown away by all of your efforts at keeping your children learning and engaging with the daily activities that we set - thank you! One more week until half term and we bet you will be glad of a little break! Keep going, you're doing amazing things. We have seen many children going on a bear hunt, with their home made binoculars. We have seen children making emojis and talking about their feelings for Children's Mental Health Week. We have seen children practising their letter formation in messy gloop and lots of fun being had exploring, floating and sinking. Children in our key worker bubble and at home have 'dressed to express' themselves and we have loved seeing their amazing outfits. Well done everyone.



KS1 & 2

As this week is Children's Mental Health Week, we have been reflecting on what is working well to support and protect our children's wellbeing, especially the many who are working from home. Perhaps the most rewarding moments of all are those where we see children supporting their peers. In the Google Classroom stream, we love reading the compliments shared or the advice given from pupil to pupil. These 'chats' take on an important role in looking after the wellbeing of our learners. Just asking their classmates a question, sharing a success or discussing a tricky maths problem takes our children right back into their classroom. From talking to parents this week, that's where many of our children want to be - back in their classroom. Whilst we know that our Google Classrooms are nowhere near the same as our lively, vibrant PCP classrooms, they are spaces that - for now - allow us to connect.

Thank you for using the Google Classrooms regularly, productively and respectfully.

Here are some tips that may support home learning (depending on the age of your child):

- Check Google Classroom every morning for the day's activities. Read instructions with your child and check understanding.
- Perhaps allocate a different room in the house that is the learning zone, an alternative classroom. This obviously depends on how many little learners you have in the house!
- Activities can be completed in any order - maybe choose the one that will demand the most concentration first? Or maybe a task that will wake up your sleepy head?
- Activities can be completed at any time. We do not intend to teach online 'live lessons' and this is one of the reasons why. We want you to have the flexibility to plan home learning around the demands of your family. If you want to plan some 'school time' after 3.15pm, go ahead! You can design your own timetable!
- Activities have been set carefully by the teachers to fit with the expectations of the curriculum. However, teachers have also tried to plan tasks that most children can complete independently - especially the older children in school. In class, children would always be expected to 'have a go'.
- Joining a Zoom helps your child to feel connected. If you miss a Zoom - don't worry, just look out for the next Zoom link on Google Classroom.
- If your child completes only half of the task, hand it in anyway. If they leave some questions out because they don't understand, hand it in anyway. At least teachers can see what has been accomplished and maybe how to help next time.
- Balance screentime with practical activities. We have seen some fantastic music, art and PE tasks that have been photographed and handed in or shared on Twitter.
- Encourage siblings to help each other. Or don't if this would prove challenging!
- Encourage friends to chat to each other about their work - they may get a confidence boost from sharing their ideas.
- Take photos of the times when you share a book, go for a walk, bake a cake or play a board game. These are all learning moments that we would love to see, please share if you can.



- Don't turn learning into a battle. You are parents first and your relationship with your children is precious. We are here if you need us to have a chat with your child - to offer a little encouragement.
- Look after the wellbeing of your family. If your work demands take over, so be it. If your child is overwhelmed, leave the work behind and do something else they enjoy. Of course, we would like to see the majority of school tasks completed but if the day just isn't going to plan, that's fine. No problem.

SOME FURTHER GUIDANCE ABOUT HOME LEARNING:

- 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.
- Weekly Oracy Challenges will be posted on Twitter and Google Classroom 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 MEETING GUIDANCE

- 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.
- Encourage your child to behave well whilst on the screen.
- 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.

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.
- 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

Our lunchtime menu returns to normal from Mon 8th February. Thank you for your patience over the past couple of weeks.

Fruit deliveries have resumed so your child will always have a choice of fresh fruit for their playtime snacks.



FOLLOW THE RULES

We have overheard a couple of children talking about visiting friend's houses or seeing their cousins 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.**

We do not expect to hear about children mixing with other families outside of school. This would clearly compromise the safety of our class bubbles and put staff and children at risk of transmission.

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

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!**

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,

Enjoy some fresh air this weekend, some time away from the screen. You've all earned it.

Kindest regards,

Mr George and Mrs Seddon

Headteacher - Mr S.George

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