

Newsletter 15

Happy New Year and Moving to Remote Learning

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all so much for your support with the move to remote learning provision this week. There have inevitably been some teething problems as we have moved fully to remote learning and we recognise the considerable challenges this poses for all our families. We are so grateful for all that you are doing to support your children's learning and your patience whilst staff work hard to perfect our online systems. Please remember that home learning will look different in every household, so please do not feel undue pressure. You are doing an incredible job, juggling your own work with that of your children. We will always endeavour to support you to the very best of our ability, so please let us know if there is anything we can do to help. The teachers are currently working together to support the whole year group with their learning so please do not be alarmed if the partner teacher in your child's year group is delivering the online sessions or giving feedback.

We know your concerns around children learning from home also reflect children's social and emotional well-being. We are using Microsoft Teams to supplement our Seesaw provision as this will provide daily live communication between home and school, and will allow the children to interact with their teachers and classmates. We appreciate that the requirement for children to be online at a specific time can be problematic for some of our families, particularly in cases where siblings may be sharing devices. Teachers will be recording their live lessons and will also be uploading pre-recorded sessions to ensure that all children have access to the same learning input which will allow them to access their learning independently.

However, we would encourage children to log on with their teachers whenever possible each day as this provides a valuable opportunity for staff to give feedback and to support with further clarification and coaching. In addition it provides an opportunity for staff to carry out their pastoral role and check in with the children. Staff will be available throughout the normal school day to respond to the children.

As with all new approaches and adaptations we, too, are on a steep learning curve. Staff are working round the clock to refine the systems we are using, to make sure they are accessible for everyone and enabling us to deliver high quality learning. As we develop the online systems further, we hope to be able to provide more opportunities for the children to have social connections with their classmates, but at the moment teachers are balancing the need to prioritise on-line learning with being in school to deliver face-to-face learning to those children whose parents are critical workers. However, we are determined that contrary to all the reports in the press, children at Monkfield Park will not suffer and lose out on their education as a result of this second lockdown.

Thank you again for continuing to work with us, for your patience and your understanding .

Mrs Howell

Bringing the sunshine inside

With schools closing in the UK and the Government advice to stay indoors, we need to get a little In-ventive about how we can connect with nature. Here are our top indoor activities from the **RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) campaign for school gardening**, which are also great for rainy days:

Milk bottle waterers

Turn a plastic milk bottle into a watering can to keep your houseplants or containers looking happy.

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Resources/Activity/Milk-bottle-watering-can>



Draw a map of your garden

Draw a map of your garden or local outdoor space. Mark any garden features on the map and where plants could be grown; either now or in the future.

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Resources/Activity/Draw-a-map-of-your-garden>

Potato bag monster

Create a bag monster in the dark with a potato!

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Resources/Activity/Make-a-potato-bag-monster>



Whole School Assembly is Back!

We are missing all our families very much so we would like to invite everyone to join Mrs Howell for our whole school assembly on Monday morning at 9.15 am.

Please log on to Microsoft Teams and join us for a few quiet moments to enjoy being together virtually as we begin the school week.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Make it a Happier New Year for children and young people in care

2020 has been a difficult year for us all, but even more so for the children and young people who go in to 2021 without a stable home and loving family. This New Year we are looking for people who are determined, energetic and caring, to become foster carers.

Fostering with Cambridgeshire County or Peterborough City Councils means you are fostering with a local authority that truly cares about you and our children. We offer comprehensive training courses both before and during your fostering adventure with us. We also allocate a social worker who will support you and we also provide a 24/7 helpline so you will never feel alone!

Remember if you are a Cambridgeshire County Council or Peterborough City Council employee and undergoing an assessment as a foster carer for either council, (with agreement from your line manager), you are entitled to additional annual leave of up to 5 days to attend training courses.

So whether you are single, married, retired, working or a full time parent to a birth child

YOU CAN FOSTER.

Make this a happier New Year for our children and young people.

To find out more:

call 0800 052 0078,

text FOSTERING to 60777,

email fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

or visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering



Early Intervention Family Worker Tips and Ideas

Starting your morning on a positive

Getting some exercise in the morning can boost your mood and start off the day on a positive note.

Joe Wicks (The Body Coach) is back and running his 20 minute 'PE with Joe' on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9am on his Youtube channel.

Find it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1>

Don't worry if you miss the 9am slot as the videos are saved on his channel.

BBC to show 2 hours of curriculum content every week day

From Monday 11th January 2021

- Primary-school programming, including BBC Live Lessons and BBC Bitesize Daily, from 09:00 to 12:00 on CBBC
- At least two hours of programming to support the GCSE curriculum on BBC Two

Google Classrooms Access via Xbox & Playstation

Google Classroom on PlayStation

To access Google Classroom on a PlayStation console, navigate to the browser.

On the PS4, this is done by accessing the www icon, or failing that, in your Library, under Apps.

Type Google Classroom into the browser and follow the log in as usual. Once you're in, you can access a suite of programs to get learning!

Google Classroom on Xbox

The Xbox's web browser can be found by navigating to the Microsoft Edge app. Open up the app and type Google Classroom into the browser to be directed to the log in page.

Sign in as you would on a PC to access the programs listed above, as well as email.

Both consoles have keyboard and mouse support

More online resources

ParentKind has published a list of free online resources, as has Oak National Academy, which is collated by teachers.

BrainPop - animated videos on topics in maths, science and English

Tynker - coding lessons

Creative Bug - craft lessons, from knitting to jewellery-making, drawing and origami

YouTube's Free School - videos on subjects as diverse as the US constitution, coral reefs and the solar system

To read the article:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-55549072>

Early Intervention Family Worker

If anyone would like some advice around things such as anxiety, raising self-esteem or sibling rivalry, please get in touch via the email below.

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