

# Newsletter 16

Friday 21st January 2021

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## Week 3 and Learning Fast

It has been another week of steep learning curves both for staff in school and those of you who are heroically supporting the children at home with their learning, whilst trying to complete your own work. I am in danger of repeating myself, but we do appreciate how difficult it is for you all and want to assure you that we are here to support all our families. It is apparent from your e-mails that many of you are finding this lockdown more stressful than the previous ones. The expectations placed on schools by the DfE to deliver four hours of online learning each day does not take in to account that most parents are also working from home and that everyone is needing access to devices to complete their work or participate in live lessons. Please can I assure you that we are here to work with you and will try to find a way to make sure every child is able to access their learning and make this lockdown as painless as we possibly can.

Mrs Howell

## Laptops



We are very fortunate to have been able to access a small number of laptops from the Department for Education and have also received offers of some refurbished laptops from local charities. If your child does not have access to a device to allow them to fully participate in their home learning or they are sharing one with yourself and/or their siblings please contact the school office as we may be able to provide you with a device on loan for the period of the lockdown.

## Monkfield Wins The Legends Family Challenge

Thank you to all our families who participated in the Legends Family Challenge following the Online Safety assembly before Christmas. I am very pleased to inform you that the organisers entered Monkfield Park in to a prize drawer as so many of our families participated in the challenge, and we have won some packs of goodies. The packs will be delivered to school shortly and will provide the children with a welcome distraction when school re-opens following lockdown.

Be  
Internet  
Legends.



### The Next Generation of Teachers

This term we are delighted to welcome Miss Hutton, Miss McStea, Mr Bourne and Mr Richards who are PGCE students from the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge. We are very proud to be a partnership school for the Faculty of Education and it is always an honour to be able to help and mentor the next generation of teachers. The trainees are working very closely with our teachers, observing their excellent practice, and learning how to plan and teach creative, exciting lessons both remotely and in the classroom. Miss McStea and Mr Bourne are working with Year 4, Miss Hutton with Year 1 and Mr Richards will be with Year 6. I am sure you will give them a big Monkfield Park welcome when you meet them remotely.



Miss McStea



Mr Bourne

### Reception Visit the Antarctic Remotely

The Reception children have been learning about the Arctic this week and next week they will be travelling south to explore what it is like in the Antarctic. Today the children were very excited to receive a remote visit (via Teams) from Mr Kavanagh who works for The British Antarctic Society. The children listened intently throughout Mr Kavanagh's presentation and asked lots of questions so they could find out even more about the animals he has encountered and the equipment needed to live and work in the freezing conditions. We are very grateful to Mr Kavanagh for sparing time to speak to the children and help us to continue to provide an exciting and interesting curriculum.



If you would like to learn more about Antarctica the following websites have lots of fascinating information:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/AntarcticSurvey> - BAS Youtube page

[www.discoveringantarctica.org.uk](http://www.discoveringantarctica.org.uk)

<https://discoveringantarctica.org.uk/science-and-exploration/living-in-antarctica-today/what-not-to-wear/>



### Places for Critical Worker Families in School

Although the school is open for children who have parents who are classified as critical workers we have very limited capacity at the moment. The government and Local Authority have been very clear that to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19 children should be accessing remote learning if it is at all possible and that we must limit the number of children and staff who are physically on the premises each day. As a result staff are on a two week rota with some in school and some teaching remotely from their homes and we have had to limit the number of children who can be accommodated in each pod. My apologies if we are currently unable to offer your child a place in school as we must adhere to the government's updated list of critical workers.

### Wellbeing Activities

We would like to introduce all our families to The DailyMileAtHome. It's an easy and fun way to keep fit and maintain good health and wellbeing for you and your children.

Instructions from the UK government are very clear – they are allowing us to take exercise outdoors, as long as we can keep a safe distance from others. We all need to try to be physically active and The Daily Mile at Home can help almost everyone to do this. We believe that it will be useful for children, parents and carers in helping them to look after their physical and mental health.

We already have Daily Mile guidance for schools, and now they've adapted it so you can use it at home and enjoy the same benefits. These come from 15 minutes or more of walking, running or jogging in the fresh air – doing it at whatever pace suits you best and wearing what you'll feel most comfortable in.

Core Principles for the Daily Mile at Home can be found by clicking on the link below.

<https://thedailymile.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/The-Daily-Mile-at-Home-How-To-V5.pdf>

### **2021 Family Fun Challenges**

To keep your family active and motivated, they have worked hard with their partners at London Marathon Events to create weekly challenges for The DailyMileAtHome! To view all of their Family Fun Challenges, click on the link below and scroll to the bottom of the page.

<https://thedailymile.co.uk/at-home/>

We have picked out one of our favourite challenges should you wish to take it up as a family.

### **BIRD SPOTTING**

Can you spot the birds on your DailyMileAtHome route? You might see some in the sky. Or maybe resting in a tree.

And if you can't see any – can you hear any singing or chirping? When you get home, see if you can find out the names of the birds you saw and let us know at DailyMileAtHome.

