

WFH and updates - Wednesday 20th May

Dear all,

Thank you to all of those who are sending in work and lots of kind messages at this difficult time, it is appreciated by all of the staff and we love to see what you are doing at home. It makes the daily guidance trawl and constant reading of new updates from various sources go quicker when you can see what the children have been doing (and, in all honesty, it is far more interesting and beneficial to our mental health !).

29 school days have been missed at school so far (so although it seems like weeks and has been a couple of months) it is still a fairly low number in the great scheme of things and there has been (or should have been) plenty of home learning (in lots of different ways). Children are resilient and will bounce back quickly with good care, support and guidance. No time away from school is ideal but these unprecedented times and a return to school now would not be 'normal' - lets hope for a time when the field is filled with laughter and fun as children play normally, play equipment can all be used, classrooms are buzzing with learning and children can hug and hold things without fear or the smell of cleaning products ! It will come

WFH - family challenge - a poem, story, simple list or piece of writing entitled 'One day ' - what are you waiting to do, wanting to do etc

Sand between the toes,

Waves splashing against our legs,

Welsh beaches beckon

I am sure you can write a better effort than me. !

Home learning and curriculum updates for all classes will continue from June 1st (if anyone comes back then) until the end of term in July. Next week is 'half term' so there won't be a curriculum updates then.

Short burst will continue for everyone on June 1st and every Monday until the end of term - key worker children, any returnees to school and home learners will all have the same. We will be using Sammy's picture from the update yesterday to generate ideas and stories.

Work will still be set on Education City, Spelling Shed etc from June 1st until the end of term (unless we all come back 'normally' at some point, highly unlikely).

Paper will still be provided in the entrance hall if you need it. We can't lend any other resources I'm afraid. If you don't have a printer (as many don't) then adapt by adding short burst pictures to word or similar. As we have said before, Just try your best.

Parents/carers in Years R/1 and 6 - thank you all for your surveys regarding a potential return on June 1st (not a definite) and numbers in Years R and 1 are extremely low (Year 1 = 5 children and Year R = 8 children) which will assist us with the management and introduction of new systems and procedures. These procedures will help us all to be

ready IF other children then return at a later date. Numbers in Year 6 are slightly higher (12 children) but Year 6 are easier to manage in terms of staying in one place ('bubble' approach) and the manner in which they work.

If you return to school it will be packed lunches provided from home for the foreseeable future. The reason for this is that the catering company has to be able to operate without significant losses and they have a threshold of meals to cover costs, if the threshold was not met (for example if the threshold was 30 meals and we only had 10 children eating) then the school would have to agree to pay the difference (in the example given 20 meals on a daily basis at approximately £2 each). School budgets could not sustain this and we fully understand and support a business having to operate carefully and without loss. If you having indicated a return to school and have issues with providing a packed lunch for your child please e-mail Mrs Johnson.

Just for information we have spent and, are projecting to spend, about £10,000 + from our current budget on measures to ensure safety, adequate toilets, adequate hand washing, additional equipment and other aspects for a return to school. We have received no additional funding from government as yet.

Some of these measures will be beneficial in the long run anyway (outdoor sinks) but some are just for this period e.g mobile toilet units outside for Year 6 as they are the only ones who could reach the sinks ! We have had great support from builders (who have been brilliant at getting resources in challenging times) and local businesses who have given us great discounts. Madley Charities have been amazing in supporting the school. Our school community and supporters have been amazing, in challenging times, to assist us in planning for reopening (whenever the children return).

Thank you for all of your support, common sense and approach in these unprecedented times. It is really appreciated.

Kind regards

Mr Batstone