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Executive Head Teacher: Mrs Laura Green

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace
1 Peter 4:10*

Work together, learn together, grow together...

Friday 24th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: School Closure Updates and News

I hope this letter finds you all well. This is the end of the first week of the summer term and it has been really lovely to see the amount of activity in our Google Classrooms. The children have been sharing lots of lovely photos and videos and there are some amazingly creative things going on in your homes.

I need to say a special thank you to Karen Johnson and Jill Smith for the lovely video that they helped our Year 1 children to make. Once again, the staff were very moved to see our little ones, including Joey in Australia!

I know that some of you are finding it more and more difficult to persuade your children to complete home learning tasks, while also trying to work from home and do the hundred and one different things that you need to do when you're all at home together. Please remember, that we are not marking the children's work and we are certainly not marking you. When they are at school, children use a limited amount of their intelligence because so much of their time is spent sitting while doing reading, writing and maths. While they are at home, they are exploring, building, making, talking, playing and just 'being' with the people that they love best. If you have teenagers, I would add sleeping to that list!! Therefore, I urge you not to feel guilty or judge yourself against what any other parent is doing. Just enjoy this unexpected time that you have with your child and watch them grow.

Having said all of that, I have quite a few different things to share with you today. Just scan through and pick out anything that has any relevance or interest for you. If you choose not to read the bulk of this newsletter, please at least read our Friday Celebration section. We're so proud of our children.

Child Care Arrangements

If you are a critical worker, and you do not have suitable alternative care for your child, we are providing childcare at our Morley Primary School site during the school closure. If the number of places required for Tacolneston pupils increases, we will consider opening that site for our children of critical workers, but at present, it makes sense to limit our staffing, maintenance and cleaning needs to one site. To make a booking for places, please make contact with me on head@tacolneston.norfolk.sch.uk.

Arrangements for our childcare provision are as follows:

- Tacolneston pupils to be brought to Morley Primary School (address at the top of this letter)
- School will be open from 8:40am to 3:15pm
- The morning session will run from 8:40 to 12:15
- The afternoon session will run from 1:15 to 3:15
- Lunch will be provided by our catering company, Norse, as usual from 12:15 to 1:15

- There will be access to Universal Infant Free School meals as usual. Families who are eligible for free school meals will be in receipt of vouchers to cover the school closure period so they will need to provide a packed lunch for their child or buy a lunch, on the day, from Norse.
- Your child can wear comfortable home clothes. They should have a complete change of clothes each day and you will need to ensure that they shower and wash their hair on return from our setting.
- They should bring their wellies, PE Kit and water bottles (all clearly labelled)
- They can bring a healthy mid-morning snack

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns, or if your circumstances change at any time.

Benefits and Financial information

Universal Credit - Information on Coronavirus

Essential information on Coronavirus has been issued on the Understanding Universal Credit website - <https://www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/coronavirus/>. The page contains information about coronavirus and claiming benefits. It will be updated regularly with information on what to do if someone receiving benefits is affected by coronavirus. It has information on what to do if people are in work and not claiming benefits, with sections about sick pay eligibility and how to apply for Universal Credit

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit>

<https://www.gov.uk/employment-support-allowance/eligibility>. It also has information for those already claiming UC who may need to self-isolate and re-arrange appointments with work coaches.

For more information about any aspect of UC, including how to make a claim, visit the homepage - <https://www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/>.

Police:

The Police have created a 'Safer Schools Newsletter' together with various activities for your child to complete. Please see the attached documents.

Keeping Fit and Sports Challenges:

I have had a couple of things sent to me this week, which I think are particularly good and very easy to do at home: Norfolk School Games and Sportshall Home Awards pentathlon. These initiatives cover everything you need to keep your lively children fit and occupied. Please see the front page of our website for details/video (under Covid-19). I have also received information from Active Norfolk with new ideas for keeping active at home. The link below will take you directly to the weekly timetable of activities.

<https://www.activenorfolk.org/active-at-home-kids>

Home Learning:

We have noticed that some of our children have been having difficulty managing the Google Classroom. One of our teachers has produced this guidance:

Text-to-speech: Accessibility options are widely built in to most new devices and are accessed in the SETTINGS menu. They need a bit of a play and a tweak but are worth it when setting up a device for school-friendly work. Selected text can be read aloud (like on Clicker 7).

Speech-to-text: Most children have already clocked that you can press the microphone icon at the side of the Google search bar, and you can talk to it like an Alexa. On MSWord there is (version-dependant) a dictate icon on the far right of the toolbar. In Google Classroom, if you're typing straight onto a Google document, click on Tools and select voice-typing from the drop down menu.

Summer Reading Challenge:

We have set a reading challenge for the summer term in order to keep reading high on the agenda for home learning. See the attached Reading Challenge sheet.

Oak Academy online lessons and BBC Bitesize home learning programmes:

We sent a message to you on Tuesday of this week to let you know about the new resources announced by the DFE over last weekend. Our teachers have checked the Oak Academy online lessons. They tell me that the lessons are sequenced and easy to navigate. They include phonics, spelling and comprehension activities. There are lots of videos for the children to watch and engage with and the lessons are a suitable length. If parents are finding it hard to support learning at home, the online lessons tell the child exactly what to do. Take a look at these links:

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

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zn9447h>

Writing:

Pie Corbett is well known to all teachers as a writing guru. He has created a radio blogging show on weekdays at 9:30 - 10:30 am. This is very good, especially for KS2 children. The show is interactive and provides opportunities for pupils to write and post their work online and receive feedback. Here is the link:

<https://radioblogging.net/>

Safeguarding and Wellbeing:

Managing Stress and Worry During the Covid 19 Outbreak

The Help Hub have produced this document which provides a range of cognitive behaviour techniques to help people to manage their stress and worry. You will find this among our attachments.

The Educational Psychology & Specialist Support team:

The EPSS have produced a list of useful resources for home learning and parent/carer awareness. See the attached document.

Celebration Friday

Our children have completed some wonderful work this week. The teachers have nominated the following children for special mention:

- Josef and Archie J - Both have worked really hard throughout the week and have shared some very creative ideas and with such enthusiasm and smiling faces
- Cameron created his own awesome version of a Joe Wicks workout: he made JW look tame!
- Lucas made a huge effort with his writing
- Mrs Grant says '*It was really lovely to hear from Polly, Betty, Mollie, Aran, Josef, Kiki, Eva, Harry, Joseph, Archie J, Ellen-Jayne, Rosie, Benson, William Ha, Pippa, on the Eagles Google Classroom this week. Keep up with the fantastic work and creative ideas and keep your photos and messages coming in.*'
- Mrs Diaper says '*Well done to the Kingfishers who have added to the classroom this week: Finley, Toby, James, Reuben, Charlie, Tristan, Rory and Indie'*

Values Certificates

We are awarding Values Certificates to the following children (they will find their certificates in the Class Work area of their Google Classroom):

- **William W and Charlotte – Perseverance:** For persevering when technology seemed to be trying to get the better of them. They won through!



Some of our children have celebrated their birthdays this week. I'd like to say a big

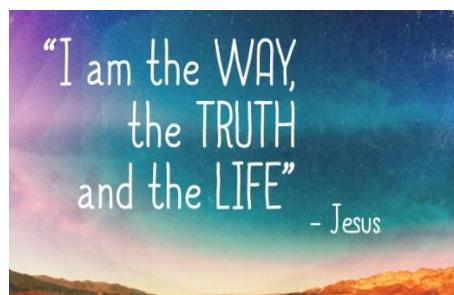
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to

JOSEF, HAYDEN AND MEGAN!

And finally:

Our value for this term is **Truthfulness** so I'd like to finish with Jesus' words:



Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Green".

Laura Green
Executive Head Teacher