

Tacolneston CE VA Primary School
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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 1st May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: School Closure Updates and News

Like me, you are probably following the news about school reopening and there is a lot of speculation about schools opening after half-term. The Government Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, has told us this week that the reopening of schools will depend upon scientific advice and restrictions remain in place at the current time. You can read about what he said in this news report: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-52469939>. The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, stated in his news briefing yesterday that the Government would be producing a plan, next week, for the reopening of schools.

Since schools closed, I have been working with the school leadership team and governors to plan for our eventual reopening. I'm also in close contact with my headteacher colleagues in the Wymondham cluster and county-wide. Please rest assured that we are all making preparations for welcoming our children and families back to school as soon as we can and you will receive detailed advice about this at the relevant time. The Government have promised that we will be given reasonable notice of the reopening.

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.

Norfolk Constabulary Sunflower Campaign

<https://www.norfolk.police.uk/news/latest-news/20-04-2020/sunflower-campaign-supports-frontline-services>

To compliment the NHS Rainbow campaign and to demonstrate how the blue light services and other agencies are working together to help protect and support the NHS, they are encouraging communities to display Sunflowers in their windows. These can be drawn, painted, knitted, or created in any other way. Homes which are seen displaying their Sunflower display by officers, or members of the other blue light services, whilst on shift or patrol, will receive sunflower seeds through the door which can be planted. Homeowners can then watch it grow over the coming weeks and months – with a beautiful sunflower to look forward to at the end.

Norfolk Library Service

Norfolk Library and Information Service have a digital roster of events and activities to support families now spending time together at home. If you have a library card, you can access eBooks, eAudio, newspapers and magazines via <https://norfolk.overdrive.com/>. If you don't have a library card, you can sign up online; more info here: www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/coronavirus-update

On Facebook, there are weekly bounce and rhyme sessions every Tuesday, and on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday there are live-stream storytimes in which library staff read picture books you know and love– you don't have to be a library member to watch along! They're also hosting a virtual eBook club for young readers, with all of the chosen titles available to download for free from the library's electronic catalogue. The first book they're encouraging everyone to read and share their thoughts on is Lara Williamson's 'Just Call Me Spaghetti Hoop Boy'– download it here: <https://norfolk.overdrive.com/search?query=spaghetti%20hoop> To stay up-to-date with anything else library related, visit: www.facebook.com/NorfolkLibrariesUK/ or give them a follow on Twitter: @NorfolkLibs

Home Learning:

The teachers and I have been monitoring home learning and I am very pleased to note that 45% of our children are accessing the Google Classroom and engaging with the activities there and on our website class pages. This is a pleasing percentage as the figure nationwide is nearer to 33%. In order to improve engagement, we have been delivering work packs to some families and loaning laptops to other families. We have also emailed some families to ensure that they have their child's school email address and login details for My Maths and Times Tables Rockstars. If you are aware of any family who is still struggling with access to their child's home learning resources, please let us know. We are keen to ensure that children are able to continue to practise and consolidate their academic skills.

I have had very helpful feedback from some parents. They have told me that they would find it helpful if we could provide a weekly chart or tick list to show the minimum of work that the teacher would like completed. I have asked the teachers to provide this from next week and I hope that it will be helpful for you.

Save Banham Zoo – Art Competition

If your family are fans of Banham Zoo, you might be interested in this art competition.

<https://mailchi.mp/fca5308d6fa7/be-amazing-an-update-from-banham-zoo-and-africa-alive-5871542?e=d29f42d623>

Summer Reading Challenge:

Please encourage your child to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge, which can be found on their class page on the website and in the Google Classroom.

Safeguarding and Wellbeing:

The Literacy Trust:

The Literacy Trust are making short stories available on their website:

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/>

Compiled and edited by Katherine Rundell, *The Book of Hopes* is completely free to read on line for all children and families. This extraordinary collection of short stories, poems, essays and pictures has contributions from more than 110 children's writers and illustrators, including Lauren Child, Anthony Horowitz, Greg James and Chris Smith, Michael Morpurgo, Liz Pichon, Axel Scheffler, Francesca Simon, Jacqueline Wilson – and Katherine herself.

The Book of Hopes aims to comfort, inspire and encourage children during lockdown through delight, new ideas, ridiculous jokes and heroic tales. There are true accounts of cats and hares and plastic-devouring caterpillars; there are doodles and flowers; revolting poems and beautiful poems; and there are stories of space travel and new shoes and dragons.

Resources to support Children's emotional wellbeing:

Attached to this letter, you will find a list of links to wellbeing themed stories and poems.

Celebration Friday

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

- Mrs Grant says: *Special mention to Harry, Betty, Romey, Ellen-Jayne, Archie J, Benson, Joseph, Rosie, Archie M, Kiki, Soul for submitting some fantastic work that has shown great creativity and imagination. Keep up the good work everyone.*
- Mrs Diaper says: *She has enjoyed seeing some lovely work from Toby, Finley, Rory, Lexie, Joshua, Zachary, Indie, Tristan, Chloe, James, Harrison and Reuben*
- Mrs Ketley and Mrs Cheese say: *We would like to mention Freya S to celebrate her creativity during lockdown, Jacob for carrying out a volcanic eruption investigation using vinegar and bi-carb and finally Leo for working hard on his reading and enjoying sharing his Lego Star Wars books with his family.*
- Mrs Hathaway says: *Members of the Scouting family in Tacolneston have been taking part in a world record attempt for the largest ever virtual camp out. The month long event resulted in last night's world record attempt. The group had to make dens or pitch tents at home, make a fire, cook or help cook dinner and take part in a scouting activity as well as 'camping out' all night. You can't stop Scouts from camping and always trying their best. Those involved include: Lucy and her Dad, Jake L, Archie and Pippa M, Archie J, Jayden, Benson, William H and Josef*

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):

- **Polly – Thankfulness:** For being so appreciative of her neighbour's knowledge of the solar system and for using the knowledge that she has gained to draw a beautiful picture for the NHS.
- **Harry – Friendship & Compassion:** For writing such a beautiful letter to his Grandad to help cheer him up whilst on lockdown.
- **Chloe- Perseverance and courage:** For learning to ride her bike without stabilisers!
- **Oscar J and Freya – Perseverance:** for making grand efforts with their home learning.



One of our children has celebrated his birthday this week. I'd like to say a big

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to

ALEX S!

And finally:

Please remember that our value for life this term is **Truthfulness**. Discuss this with your children when you get the opportunity. What does truthfulness mean? How can we live our lives truthfully?

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Laura Green'.

Laura Green
Executive Head Teacher