



Our High Meadow Community 'Thought for the Week'



Charlie Mackesy

Coronavirus Act 2020 Provision of Remote Education

The Coronavirus Act 2020 - Provision of Remote Education (England) makes clear schools have a legal duty to provide remote education for state-funded, school-age children unable to attend school due to COVID-19. The Direction will come into force next Thursday on 22 October 2020.

The Direction requires where a class, group of pupils, or individual pupils need to self-isolate, or there are local or national restrictions requiring pupils to remain at home, schools are expected to provide immediate access to remote education.

Today, we have seen the very difficult decision that Curdworth Primary School has had to close to all pupils due to COVID until after half term. This was a very difficult situation for their whole school community with families having to sort out last minute childcare and remote education having to be quickly planned again. So, with this in mind and with the new Coronavirus Act 2020 (detailed above) about to go live I would like to take this opportunity to gently remind all families to....



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- 1) Ensure you are registered with your child's class online learning platform (Tapestry for early years and Seesaw for the rest of the school) Links to set these up was sent out several weeks ago by the class teacher.
- 2) Ensure you have emergency childcare planned if our school/your child's class had to quickly close as a result of a COVID outbreak
- 3) Ensure you have adequate computers/l-pads for your child to access online learning as it is now a requirement for ALL children to engage in daily online learning as a result of COVID.
- 4) Ensure you have adequate stationary available for your child. Please use the whiteboards and books sent out previously.

The Government have now enshrined remote learning in law to ensure every child accesses the online learning they are entitled to. Please plan for this NOW to alleviate any last-minute panic. Thank you for your support in this

New Consent Forms

We are as sad as you are that, due to COVID restrictions things like our Harvest Festival and Remembrance events cannot be run in the usual way. It is not safe to invite everyone into the hall to see a performance and anyway, class bubbles cannot mix either! So, we have come up with another plan, however we need more consent...and quite quickly too!

Attached to this weeks newsletter is a new parental consent form. Please read it carefully and complete and return it by **3.00pm next Monday 19th October**. You will notice that we have added Youtube to the list of online learning platforms. This is because we would like to use our private (by invite only) You-tube channel to share events like Harvest Celebrations, Remembrance events, Christmas Celebrations, etc on there. If you do not wish your child to be photographed/videoed for any of these platforms, then you **MUST** let us know via the consent form. This will allow us to ensure they are not in shot when filming any of the events. EVERYONE needs to complete the form and return it to us by Monday. Thank you for your support in this.

Supporting your child to read at home

Thank you to all of the parents who listen to their child read at home regularly every week. It makes a huge difference to the progress your child will make in school and working in partnership with us is key in ensuring your child gets a well-rounded reading experience.

Now that all classes have delivered their Parents Phonics(KS1) SPAG (KS2) workshops, I thought it would be useful to share our High Meadow Reading Strategy with everyone so the





whole school community has an insight to our very successful approach to reading throughout the school.

Phonics

Children from nursery to Year 2 are taught synthetic phonics using the Letters and Sounds scheme. They are taught first thing, EVERY morning the names and the sounds of a series of letters. They are taught to blend the letters to read whole words. We teach Phase 1 in nursery, Phases 2, 3 and 4 in Reception, Phase 5 in Year 1 and Phase 6 in Year 2. Here is a link to find out which letters are taught when ...

The explicit teaching of phonics is where your child is TAUGHT to read by experienced, qualified teachers who are fully trained in phonics teaching. The teachers will share a Phonics newsletter at the end of each week so that you can then **practice** the sounds that have **already been taught** by the class teacher, with your child. We do not expect you to teach new sounds to your child but we would love you to practice with them, once the teacher has taught them.

With this in mind, the reading books that we send home with your child, will be for your child to read confidently **to you**. We want to use the opportunity for you to snuggle up with your child and for them to feel proud that they can read their book to you. The book should not contain lots of new sounds that they have not yet been taught as this would make it less enjoyable for the child and more stressful for you too. The experience is not about **you teaching** new sounds in the book to your child, but practising the ones they have already been taught in class. This experience should be enjoyable for both parties. It is a book **SHARING** experience not a book **TEACHING** experience. It is up to the teachers to teach your child to read and the parents to support the teachers by practising the sounds and words that have already been taught.





Sometimes you may think that the book that we have sent home is too easy for your child and that they can read every word already! That is the point, it is about your child having a CONFIDENT reading experience with you NOT about you teaching them unknown words and sounds; that is the teachers' job.

Your child will be heard read, one-to-one, at least once a week by an adult in school and when they feel that your child is secure and confident with robust comprehension knowledge in that book band, they will move your child on. Please do not message your child's class teacher asking them to move your child up a book band, it is not a race, the teacher will make that decision using many years of teaching experience to inform their judgement. And please also note, your child reads every day across the whole curriculum too, reading maths problems, readings texts based on their half termly topics and also in their daily Guided Reading sessions. We will share more of what is included in their daily Guided Reading sessions next week.

Please follow the links below if you wish to find out more about supporting your child to read. We use Phonics Play a lot in school and at the moment subscription for parents is just £6.00 for the whole year, the cost of a single book.



Please also use the fabulous range of e-books that are available on Oxford Owl ...



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And please remember, that the most important thing you can do is **read stories TO YOUR CHILD every day.** I really cannot stress this enough! We are able to clearly see (and research backs this up) which children are immersed in stories and books at home, they have a much wider vocabulary, are more imaginative and engage more readily in teaching and learning. Reading stories to your child regularly is like Gold Dust.....please, please, please do it 😊

School Photos – Monday 9th November

Just in time for Christmas, Braiswick photos will be coming into school to take individual photos of each child. In the past we have also been able to offer family group and sibling photos too but sadly, due to COVID restrictions, this year Braiswick can only accommodate individual child photographs. When completed, the photos will be emailed to you ready for you to choose your selection. We will send a gentle reminder nearer the time.

A gentle reminder

We have noticed that over the past few weeks we are getting calls from some parents expecting teachers to call them back quickly, even though the conversation is not urgent.

Can I gently remind everyone of the following...

1. The school answerphone goes on at 3.30pm. Any messages left after this time will not be collected until the following morning.
2. If the request is not urgent, please allow the teacher up to 48 hours to return your call. They all teach full-time and their breaks are used for planning and marking and getting ready for the following lessons.
3. Teachers will make calls to parents up to 4.00pm but not after that time. Managing teachers workload and mental health is important for us all.
4. Please note, if you do have concerns please follow this path...
 - a. Speak to the class teacher (This is always your first port of call)
 - b. If not resolved, speak to the Phase leader (Mrs Windridge Phase 1 and Mrs Garbett Phase 2)
 - c. And if still not resolved, speak to the Headteacher.
5. If there has been an incident in Larks and Owls, speak to Miss Vine, not the class teacher
6. If there has been an incident that has happened outside school (such as Brownies or football) then please speak to the club leader, our class teachers will not get involved in disputes outside the school.

Thank you for your support in this.





Hot Chocolate Friday!

We are thrilled to share that after the half term break, we are introducing a brand new recognition scheme for children called 'Hot Chocolate Friday' This initiative is to recognise and celebrate those children who ALWAYS do the right thing. Those children who diligently get on with always making the safe choices, always working hard, always being kind and always doing their best. Shining Stars will continue but Hot Chocolate Friday will be a special time for those children, identified, by their class teacher who are quietly getting on with being fantastic, day in, day out! They will be invited to have Hot Chocolate and biscuits with me (Mrs Hughes) in my office. We will have a chat and probably a bit of a giggle too. We are really looking forward to sharing this new scheme with the children after half term.



Harvest Festival Donations

Although we are unable to enjoy a normal Harvest Festival this year, we are hoping to share some class Harvest songs with you next week. The children have been practising and are really excited to share their Harvest learning with you all.

As part of Harvest, they have learnt about the importance of sharing food with those who may not have much and so, with this in mind, we are asking for donations of food for our local food bank. Please send in any dried goods, tins or packets of non-perishable foods. The food bank are always looking for donations of toiletries and ladies sanitary products too. We will create a Harvest Display to share with you all and for the children to once again experience the power of a whole school community, pulling together to help those in need. Thank you for supporting us in this wonderful festival.





Please reach out if you and your family or child need support

Please remember, if you need someone to talk to about any concerns you have about your child, then please call the **Family Support Worker Helpline on 01926 412412**

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for the smooth running of the new drop off system in the morning. It appears to be working smoothly so we are going to continue with these times.

Timings	Year groups
8.40am – 8.45am Car AND foot drop off	KS2, Years 3 and 4
8.45am – 8.55am	Early years, Nursery and Reception
8.55am – 9.00am	KS1, Years 1 and 2

A gentle reminder to KS2 to please not arrive at the school gates in your car **before 8.35am** as we will not be opening the gate until 8.40am as detailed in the timings above.

Larks and Owls Half Term Club

Please remember to email Julie direct if you wish to book your child into club for the half term holidays. This needs to be done by **TODAY**, Friday 16th October at the very latest. Her email is larksandowls@welearn365.com

Our Value for this half term is 'Generosity'

GENEROSITY

Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out. (Frank A Clark)

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one. (Mother Teresa)

Have you ever been generous without telling anyone?

Remember one small way you have shown generosity to one person. (You don't always have to do big things for lots of people.)

A community flourishes when people plant trees under which they will never sit. (A Greek proverb)

Use what talent you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those who sang best. (Henry Van Dyke)

'God loves a cheerful giver.'

2 Corinthians 9.7

When has your generosity served to help future generations?

Have you ever been put off doing what you are able to do because someone might be able to do it better?





Our Personal, Social and Emotional 'Jigsaw' theme for this half term is

'Being Me in My World'

We are learning to...

- Help others to feel welcome
- Help make our school community a better place
 - Think about everyone's right to learn
 - Care about other people's feelings
 - Work well with others
- Follow the Behaviour Rules – Safe, Ready and Respectful

Educational Events and Activities – Autumn Term 2020 Version 1

October 2020

Date	Time	Activity
Monday 19 th October	12pm – 6pm	Year 1 parent consultations
Thursday 22 nd October	Timings TBC	ZOOM Feed Our Friends Festival

- HALF TERM HOLIDAYS – Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October Inclusive
- TEACHER TRAINING DAY – Monday 2ND November 2020
- BACK TO SCHOOL - Tuesday 3rd November 2020

Kindest regards

Mrs Debby Hughes – Head teacher head2569@welearn365.com

Mr Jonathan Smith – Chair of Governors governors2569@welearn365.com



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