



Newsletter

8th January 2021

www.bewdleyprimary.co.uk



What an interesting week! When we returned on Monday for our training day, we had plans in place ready to welcome the children back in. However, as the day wore on it became clear that something was in the air but it wasn't until 8:00pm that we heard, along with you, that we wouldn't be opening for all children and it has been full steam ahead to get the critical worker and vulnerable learners into school and the systems in place to deliver as high quality home learning as we can. Thank you so much for bearing with us and being patient as we have begun this new way of working. We know there are a few glitches to iron out but, on the whole, I am delighted that we have got as far as we have in a few days. I would like to say a massive thank you to all the staff, many of whom who have had extremely late nights trying to be ready to support the children both in and out of school at this present time. This has really been a team effort and no one has complained about adapting their working days and responsibilities – this goes for all teaching staff, support staff, lunchtime supervisors, cleaning staff, admin staff and wrap-around staff.

On Monday, the school texting service crashed (due to overload!) which made it difficult to let you know that there was a letter on the website. Please could I ask that you regularly look at the website just in case this happens in the future!

SCHOOL BASED LEARNING

I would like to reassure the parents/carers of children in school that we are still following all the guidance recommended (the DfE guidance appeared yesterday evening so we are still trying to wade through it!). Cleaning, handwashing, distancing, ventilation etc. are still being done vigorously. We have obviously reduced bubble sizes but there was a high demand for critical worker and vulnerable children places which we have accommodated all of them without restriction. We currently have about 130 pupils in school. The reason we asked for parents/carers to send their child full – time throughout the lockdown, if they qualified for a place, is to ensure consistency in learning. A teacher and teaching assistant have been allocated to home learning and the other teacher and teaching assistant have been allocated to school learning – this will remain the same throughout. This means that staff are supporting and monitoring the progress of the pupils in their group – home-learners or school learners. By switching between to the two groups it makes it difficult to monitor this understanding and progress and does not create the best learning routines for the pupils. The in-school bubble will always remain consistent to limit contact with other children as part of our risk mitigation. The advice that we have been given is that schools were not closed because they are no longer safe for pupils or staff but, according to the guidance,

'Limiting attendance does not suggest that schools and colleges have become significantly less safe for young people. Instead limiting attendance is about supporting the reduction of the overall number of social contacts in our communities. We have resisted restrictions on attendance at schools since the first lockdown but, in the face of the rapidly rising numbers of cases across the country and intense pressure on the NHS, we now need to use every lever at our disposal to reduce all our social contacts wherever possible. For vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers, who should still attend school or college, as they did in March to July, and their teachers, the system of protective measures means that any risks are well managed and controlled.'

It is important to reiterate that the best way to prevent Covid in schools is to ensure no one comes into school if they or a household member has symptoms. Please contact us in the usual way if your child will not be attending school. We are not receiving supplies of fruit and veg for snacks during the lockdown so we would ask that you send your child with a healthy snack for breaktimes.

HOME LEARNING

For those of you with children working from home, we are absolutely determined that we do the best we can to eliminate any barriers to this. We have sent out several iPads and laptops for those families struggling to provide these – we appreciate how difficult it is to access enough IT equipment, particularly when you have more than one child. Should you have any difficulties – maybe you are finding a mobile phone just isn't good enough to access the material/meetings etc., please contact us. If you are struggling with data packages/chargers we may be able to help. We are following up with any child where we have not seen them present during the Zoom register or have not responded to the learning on a regular basis to make sure that there is nothing getting in the way of the learning that we can support with. If your child is unwell and won't be doing the learning or participating in the register please leave a message on the answering machine and we will try not to pester you! Again, please ask for help if you need it and we will get back to you as soon as we are able to. No question is too trivial if it is stopping the learning from taking place. It is our duty to provide at least 3 hours of work for key stage 1 and 4 hours of work for key stage 2. We know that children, particularly the younger ones, will need their learning to be broken up into smaller chunks as they may struggle to focus for long periods of time. Try not to get into conflict with them (easier said than done, I realise) but often a 'carrot' at the end of a chunk of learning works well. We also understand that many of you are working from home as well as trying to teach your child – this is incredibly difficult. Most of the work should be achievable by your child independently, after a short amount of input, you should not have to be sitting with them 1:1 the whole time (in fact, this is not helping them to learn independently) but an occasional prompt may help!

DfE Guidance for parents/carers is being updated at the moment and I will send a link as soon as we have it.

SPOILER ALERT – look out for exciting news on Facebook about Sunday Nights

Funded by

Department
for Education

Select  Edenred

**Free school meal
VOUCHERS**

If you are in receipt of free school meals, you are eligible for vouchers through the national voucher scheme. You will receive your voucher for this week and next week at the beginning of next week.

Closing Date for Primary School Applications

The closing date for Primary School admissions is the 15th January. Please ensure you have made your application. For more information and to apply, visit;

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions



Quinn (Reception, home learning) for being so enthusiastic about his home learning and doing it independently. Well Done.

Willow (Reception, school based) for her amazing phonic knowledge when spelling words in the office area.

Noah (Year 1 home learning) for trying hard to add adjectives to your writing in literacy and we loved seeing your video of you using your number line to answer subtraction questions.

Well done 😊

Isla (Year 1, school based) for coming into school with a smile that brightens up everyone's day and being so kind and positive.

Sophie (Year 2, home learning) for making an amazing start to her home learning and sending in daily updates that are filled with joy!

Bailey (Year 2, school based) for always making super choices and putting 100% into every lesson this week.

Alexia (Year 3, home learning) for buckling straight down to online learning and producing some wonderful, accurately punctuated sentences in literacy this week.

Alyssa (Year 3, home learning) for her fabulous sentences using apostrophes for singular possession.

Ella (Year 3, school based) for setting a high standard of behaviour and great attitude for learning in a new environment like an absolute trooper.

Erika (Year 4, home learning) for completing all tasks, each day, to a high standard, with detail and creative flare.

Toby (Year 4, school based) for always being ready and respectful. You have set the standard in our bubble, well done Toby!

Grace (Year 5, home learning) for completing all home learning tasks set to a high standard, keep up the great work!

Mason (Year 5, school based) for showing kindness in class and helping others with their work.

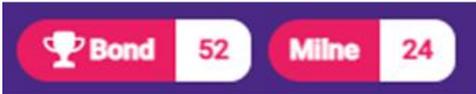
Rafe (Year 6, home learning) for his amazing, creative Egyptian timeline that makes the most of his at-home technology!

Abigail (Year 6, school based) for coming into school this week with a positive and smiley attitude and being such a fabulous member of our Year 6 Keyworker bubble.



These are the results for this week's Times Table Rock Stars' Tournaments and the top 3 scorers for each year group. **Well done everyone!**

Year 2: Jonah, William G and Phoebe



Year 3: Louie, Lola G and Isobel



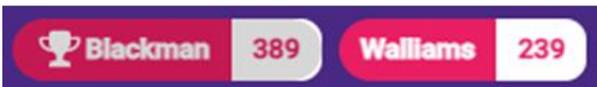
Year 4: Daisy, Riley and Archie G



Year 5: Daniel, Joshua A and Mason



Year 6: Ronnie, Alfie W and Dan



The next tournament between the classes in each year group starts tomorrow at 8am and will finish next Friday at 11.30am. Remember only points earned between 8am and 8pm count towards your class total!

GOOD LUCK!

Family Learning Courses

Family Learning Courses are **FREE**

Spring 2021

Please check the "**been referred**" box to book on free

Please book onto each course by searching for the course title:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/courses or call 01905 728537



Supporting you with Young Children

Fun Phonics - introduction to phonics in Early Years & ideas to use at home

Starts 4th Feb Thur's 1pm

Magnificent Maths - intro to Early Years maths & making resources to use at home

Starts 4th Feb Thur's 11am

Making & Using Story Sacks - supporting imagination and story telling

Starts 4th Feb Thur's 7pm

Zog's Fire Breathing Adventures - art & craft

Starts 19th Jan Tue's 11am

Supporting your Mental Health and Wellbeing

Marvellous Me - supporting you during lockdown

Starts 2nd Feb Tue's 1pm

Art in Your Heart - Colour Therapy

Starts 2nd Feb Tue's 7.30pm

Time for You - Mindfulness activities & offloading

Starts 28th Jan Thur's 7.30pm

Heartful of Art - more complex art for those with current knowledge

Starts 20th Jan Wed's 7pm

Supporting you with older children in Secondary School

Family Memories COVID-19 Time Capsule - making memory box to remember this time

Starts 2nd Feb Tue's 1pm

Numeracy Skills for parents - refresh old skills and learn new to support your child

Starts 1st Feb Mon's 7pm

English Skills for parents - feel confident to help your child at school by learning skills

starts 4th Feb Thur's 7pm

Book & Cook - affordable cooking ideas

Starts 31st Jan Sat's 4pm

Supporting you with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Nurture course for parents of children with SEND - nurture your own health & wellbeing

Starts 1st Feb Mon's 7pm

Managing Mindfulness - anxiety management & coping with meltdowns - take away techniques

Starts 1st Feb Mon's 7pm

Stimulating Sense for SEND - ideas & activities

Starts 3rd Feb Wed's 7pm

TA strategies & Techniques for supporting SEND children - transitions, managing anxiety, timetables, increasing wellbeing & self-esteem

Starts 3rd Feb Wed's 7pm



Online Learning

Our friendly Family Learning courses are currently online using 'Zoom' on your mobile phone, ipad, tablet or laptop. Your tutor will ring you before your course starts to **help you get online** for your course and can support you to access Zoom, help you check that you can use it ok and offer you any help you need.

