

Kildwick Church of England Primary School

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Newsletter

12th February 2021

Dear Parent / Carers,

By now you should have all received a 'Lockdown Teddy'. We wanted to give the children something special that, in years to come, would remind them of this extraordinary time. I enjoyed visiting some of you this week and seeing the lovely smiles on you and your children's faces. This is what all the staff miss, the sense of community that we create when we are all together. As one parent said to me, this is what makes Kildwick so special. I personally, cannot wait for the day to come when we can all sit in the hall, with our lockdown teddies. Be reassured, it is coming and there will be a big cheer and a photo to mark this special occasion! This will be when we can restart the fun of school together.

Thank you for all the responses to our parent questionnaire. In light of this, we will be making some adjustments to our remote learning which will take effect from after half term. One thing I would like to reiterate is that you and your children do have constant access to their teacher via email. This will be responded to during school hours. Please see below for further details of the slight changes being made and also please do read the FAQs below and on the school website here.

On behalf of myself and the Governors I want to take this opportunity to once again thank the Kildwick school staff. Whilst having to deal with the inevitable impact of this situation on your own families you have continued to come into school and put the children first. Working without PPE for the majority of the day in very close proximity with the children has been daunting, particularly with high rates of infection. Despite this, staff have managed to keep school a happy and welcoming environment. Nobody wanted to work in education so that they could educate via a laptop, we are missing the children not in school and we hope that things are safe enough for us to be back together soon.

As always, we will keep you updated about the timings of any wider opening. As you already know, this will not be before the 8th March.

Have a lovely half term, look after yourselves and each other.

Mr Whitehead
Headteacher

12th February 2021



Positive Covid Test

If you receive a positive Covid test out of school hours please email the Headteacher ASAP.

headteacher@kildwickce.uk

Thanks

Remote Learning Questionnaire

Thank you to those of you who have completed the Parent and Carers Questionnaire. We have looked through the responses and made some adjustments to some of our remote learning:

- Google meets will now have a more academic focus. Monday sessions will have an English focus, Wednesday sessions will have a Maths focus and Friday sessions will be used for Feedback and to reflect on the weeks learning with the children.
- Children can request one to one sessions with their teacher/an adult in school if they need to.
- Some children may be invited to small group google meets if the Teacher feels this would be helpful/appropriate.
- Information on accessing feedback has been made clearer in our Frequently Asked Questions (included on this Newsletter and published on the website)
- Parents are reminded that they and the children have constant access to their teacher via their school email address and that they should use this if they need further support or guidance on a particular piece of work



BIRTHDAYS
ALICE, C1
FAYE, C1
RYAN, C1
ESMAE, C2
SIENNA, C2



WELL
DONE!



Gabriel, Willow & Ewan (Y6) starred in a production of The Hex Factor this evening, which was a production from their drama school. The production was on Zoom due to Covid restrictions, but the children have rehearsed and worked so hard during lockdown! Well done!!

Remote Education Provision

Remote education provision: information for parents

Please find attached a document that sets out our approach to Remote Learning. It covers the following areas.

- Aims
- Roles & Responsibilities
- Who to Contact
- Data Protection
- Safeguarding
- Monitoring Arrangements
- Links with other policies
- Curriculum Delivery

Please read it carefully so that you can understand the structure in place.

If you have questions please get in touch with school via the school office. We have answered some of the more common questions below and will add to this over time.

Remote learning is a new experience for all of our school community - staff, parents, pupils - and is evolving all the time. Please be patient with school as we try things out and develop what is in place and please be kind to yourselves and your children as you navigate this new experience. Not everything will be successful all the time, but by working together and communicating we can support our children together to have the best outcomes in this challenging environment.

FAQ - frequently asked questions

Why is the school not doing lots of live lessons?

With regards to live learning on Google Hangouts or equivalent, we have given this a lot of thought and research but decided that this is not the right approach for us. We agree with OFSTED in their latest review, read [here](#), when they say that live lessons aren't always best. These are our main reasons:

- many of our parents need to access the learning at different times of day and live learning doesn't cater for this,
- many families with two or more children have only one device to share and cannot teach all their children with live lessons, our class live google meets are timed to make sure there is no overlap
- given the number of pupils we currently have in school there would be issues about how to do it successfully without any safeguarding concerns. It would not be appropriate to live stream to children's homes while supervising classroom of children at school.
- substantial amounts of screen time can be both unhealthy for children and cause them to be disengaged.

We have a really good uptake from our families with high levels of engagement and high quality learning going on. Our google meet sessions provide the social interaction with the class and their teacher and are really well attended. With this mix we feel we cater for all our families, including those who cannot attend live sessions due to their working arrangements, while giving a good range of learning experiences for every pupil.

Why are school doing Google Meet sessions?

We have listened to your feedback from the last lockdown when lots of parents felt that the children would benefit from seeing their teacher and their friends at school. These sessions are intended to help the children feel connected to school and have chance to 'see' their friends. Following feedback from the parent questionnaire we are going to make these sessions more academic in Spring 2. However, there will remain an element of 'fun' within the sessions as many parents also feedback that it is the social/fun element that is most important to their children.

Why are the Google Meet sessions only half an hour?

We are very aware that not all families have enough devices for all children learning from home. We have tried to schedule class meets so that we do not have two classes on at the same time. We are also mindful that we would never expect children to sit and listen to us for long periods of time in school; this is not how children learn. It is difficult to recreate the learning environment of a school online and we have thought very carefully about the online methods that will have the biggest impact on learning.

My child does not want to be seen on the screen at a google meet/ zoom. What shall I do?

If your child is shy of appearing on screen that is not a problem. The aim of the meet is for your child to hear the story or take part in the activity and have some daily contact with their class. They can attend the meet with their camera switched off, click on the camera symbol in a circle and it will turn off. They might find they get more confident once they have tried it this way.

If my child doesn't understand a piece of work what shall I do?

If it is not something you are able to explain post a message or email their teacher to tell them and they will help. They might put up more instructions or contact you directly. Your child might also want to ask his/her classmates for help by putting a message on the stream. **Please don't try to carry on with the work if your child doesn't understand it.** Leave it and do something else. It may be something to come back to once you've had advice but there is no need to keep going when there is a problem. It is more important that your child is doing work they can succeed in and seeks help when they can't.

We might not get through all the learning every day. Which is the most important?

Obviously all the work we post is important and we are following the government guidelines in setting the quantity they ask for. However, we appreciate that everyone's circumstances are different. The key areas of learning to focus on are: phonics (for YR-2), regular reading, writing tasks and maths. Reading and Maths are especially important, reading because it is

such a vital life skill and maths because if you miss chunks it is hard to build up your skills. Our children's mental health and well-being takes priority over all of this though so please make sure there is time to have proper breaks.

What if my child/ren puts pressure on them self to try and finish all the work?

Remind them that in school everyone learns differently and in different ways. It is difficult for teachers to allow for this at home. Remind children that the teachers are looking at the quality of their work, not quantity. You can email the class teacher and ask for a one to one Google meet or a phone call to your child for reassurance if this helps.

How do I know if the work my child is doing is of a good enough standard?

Always encourage your child to do their best. We will challenge your child to improve in the feedback we give them. We are mindful however that we cannot know what every child's situation is at home and do not want to put children or parents under unreasonable pressure. We would encourage parents to look at the first few pages of the National Curriculum Requirements for their year group on this [page](#). This will give you something to measure against.

How do we access teacher feedback?

Children can make comments publicly and privately on assignments; both are monitored by staff who will respond when needed. If a child wants to publicly share something they are proud of this can be done in the classroom stream. In the stream, they will receive positive feedback from staff and peers.

When a child has completed a piece of work they need to 'turn in' the assignment; this lets the teacher know it needs marking. Staff will aim to comment on as many tasks as possible but may sometimes need to prioritise marking. When they are not able to make individual comments teachers will make the answers (if applicable) available. Once teachers have made comments children will need to check back into assignments they have handed in. To do this:

1. Click *Classwork* at the top of the page.
2. Click *View your work*.
3. The assignments with comments will have a speech bubble next to them.
4. Click to open the assignment to read the comments.

Feedback may also be given verbally during live Google Meets. Children attending school may see less feedback on their assignments because they received personal feedback from staff in school. Please do email class teachers who are more than happy to guide you through any work your child has done and offer ways to extend their learning.

When we are on a google meet sometimes we can't see everyone and they can't see us. Are we still in the meeting?

Because of the number of people on a google meet sometimes the internet connection struggles to stream them all at the same time. To help, it chooses to turn their

streaming off and people appear with a circle with their initial or their id photo. Don't worry if this happens, you are still in the meeting and can still be heard (unless you have muted your microphone) and listen. You might find it drops in and out of live streaming a few times on the same meet as it tries to cope with demand.

Why are school having well-being and 'No Screen Days'

In school we often have 'themed' days. This is because we pride ourselves on being a school that offers different learning experiences, not just Maths, English etc. Now is a good time for the children to work on their 'life skills' and spend time doing activities that they may not have had the opportunity to do in 'normal times'. Additionally, like you, we are concerned about the mental health of the children at this very difficult time. It is important that they have the opportunity to 'break away' from the laptop. If you do not think this is a priority for your child or you are unable to facilitate please contact the class teacher for extra work on these days.

What if my child does not have access to an appropriate device to access the learning?

Please contact school and we will provide you with an appropriate device to access learning.

What if my child has to work in an environment with limited internet access?

Please contact school and we will support you with access to wifi hotspots and mobile phone data upgrades.

Here are just a few of the comments that have kept the staff going this week; Thank you for your support and kindness.

It is useful to have the work for the week available at the start of the week so we can print and prepare for the week ahead and do additional work on days when child is in the mood to learn or we have more time etc

Wanted to say what a fantastic job you are all doing. Child looks forward to her google meets through the week with her class and the whole school. She misses everyone so much, but she loves seeing the teachers smiley faces!

As parents we feel all staff at Kildwick are doing a fantastic job! A massive thanks to teacher who continues to be a huge support and is always at the end of an email

The new reading scheme is great, it's very useful to be able to read the same set of books that child would have been reading from school, and it's set to his current reading level.

Good variation of learning & nice to be able to use Google meet & for contact to be maintained. Also nice to see how you are all balancing teaching with home lives too. I think you all doing an amazing job

I don't feel that the quantity of work is too much, as this would be the amount of work that is covered in school weekly. However, it is difficult to get everything done alongside working full time. We prioritise maths, English and phonics and focus on the other subjects when possible. Both of our children's teachers have been very supportive and helpful.

Feel supported with great quality materials to support learning at home. Child loves getting words of encouragement and praise from his teacher on google classroom. As parents we appreciate not feeling pressured to do everything as juggling work as well is tough! Keep up the great work

Child is less motivated than usual, but that's because she misses friends enormously, and loves school so much! She's managing really well, thanks to the clear instructions and great resources that are being sent home. We haven't needed to access any other support from school, but I know that it would be there if we did! We're grateful for all that school is doing.

Class Google Meets

After the half term break we will be changing the time and format of the Friday Google Meet sessions. The Friday Feedback sessions will be an opportunity for the children in Robins and Swallows to share a piece of work they are proud of. Key Stage Two classes will be asked to use this session to discuss aspects of work they have found difficult and may require additional support or Teacher 'face to face' input with. Children will be asked to let Teachers know what they require support with prior to the meeting so that they can have the necessary resources to hand. Children are still encouraged to contact Teachers via Google Classroom or email for individual support throughout the week.

The class meet times on a Friday are:

9-9.30 – Robins

9.30-10 – Owls

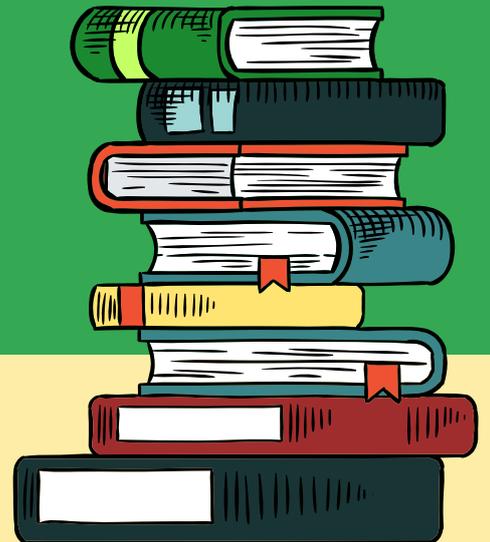
10-10.30 – Kingfishers

10.30-11 – Eagles

11-11.30 – Swallows

WORLD BOOK DAY

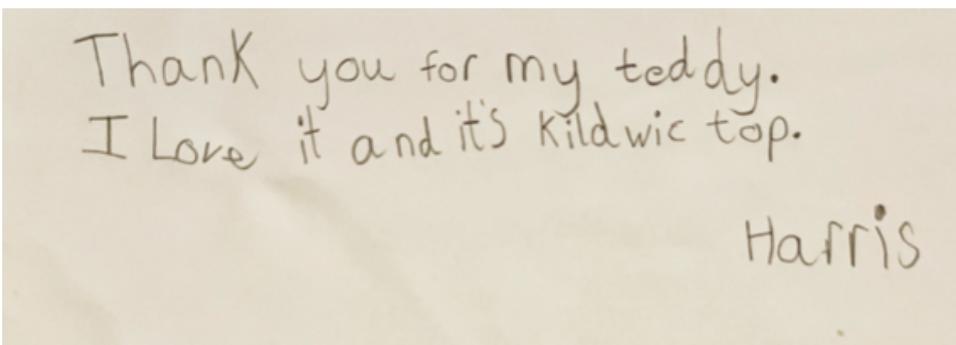
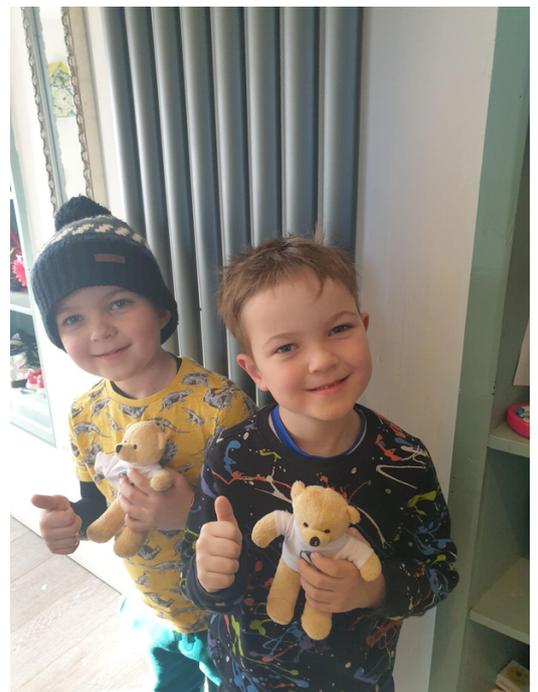
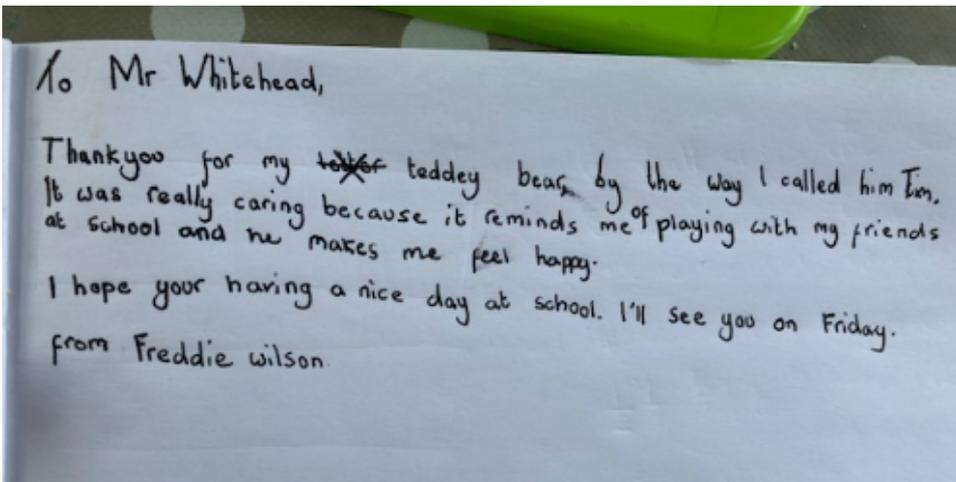
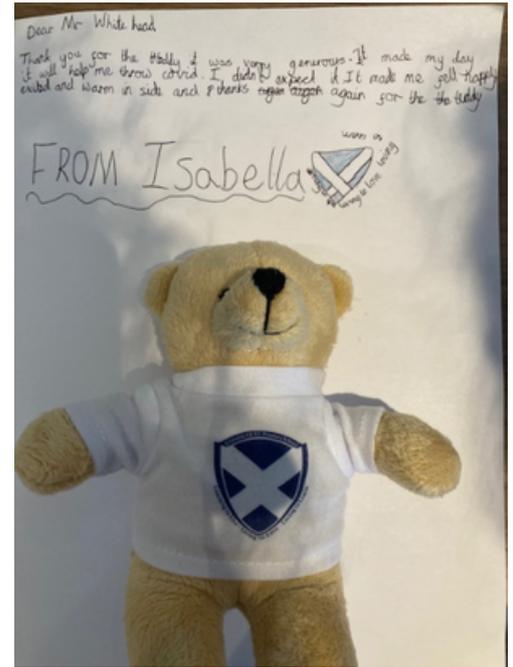
Changing lives through a love of books and shared reading.



World book day is on the 4th March. We have decided to have a 12 hour 'storytellation'. From 7am - 7pm children will be able to 'tune in' and listen to a story. The stories will be read by staff in school, the children themselves and hopefully some other inspirational/familiar faces. This is where you come in....do we have any parents, friends or relatives with a talent for storytelling or maybe you just have a favourite children's book you would like to share. If you can give up ten minutes of your time to join us on the day or to prerecord a story we would be most grateful. We have even been trying to attract some 'celebrities' to join us! Feel free to do the same #kildwickstorytellation

If you can help in any way please email Miss Akrigg at d.akrigg@kildwickce.uk

LOCKDOWN TEDDY PHOTOS



WEEK 4 CHALLENGE PHOTOS





Class Awards

Class 1 – Robins

DEXTER J MADDIE JACOB
SEB DEXTER F HARRY

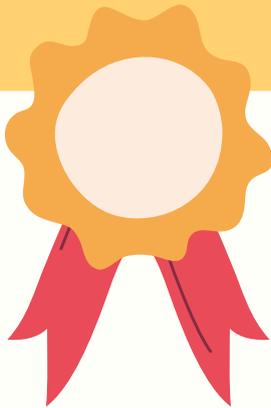


Class 2 – Swallows

FREDDIE NIC SIENNA
MALIK ISLA

Class 3 – Kingfishers

TOMMY JACK LOUIE K



Class 4 – Owls

LOUIE ERIN
EMMIE

Class 5 – Eagles

OLIVER DAWUD
FRANKIE

