

1.5.2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Message from Mrs Rawlins**

We are not sending a newsletter this week, so this is just an update from me about what is happening in relation to learning at home this week. Thank you for all the support you are continuing to give your children; remember that you can send your child's teacher a message via their eSchools page if you have any questions about home learning and we will do our best to help!

### **eSchools**

eSchools gives children a great opportunity to message their friends and teachers, as well as to consolidate their learning so far this year, and we know that keeping in touch with friends and routines can really help children in this time of school closure. We also know that eSchools can be very slow at some points during the day and we are frequently letting them know about this! Parents/carers of younger children will need initially to support their children to access eSchools, but it is surprising how quickly they become able to use it independently! Also, we are trying to identify where families are not able to access eSchools and to offer support in other ways. If you have friends who are not accessing eSchools and would like to have some printed learning ideas sent to them, please ask them to email the school office (or let us know on their behalf, with their permission!) and we will do our best to help.

Teachers will be updating class pages with suggested tasks for next week, which we hope will be useful. We are continuing to add to our group pages, which give opportunities to engage in a range of experiences and cross-curricular learning. On your child's eSchools page, they can go to the 'My groups' tab and see all of the groups available to explore. New this week/next week are:

- 'Reading Rooms', on the Reading group page – videos of teachers reading stories, with related activities to try out
- Eco-schools
- Music groups for Y3/4 recorders, KS2 Choir, Y5 Windband and school orchestra
- KS2 Drama club
- A 'Thunks' page – the children know all about Thunks!
- Mrs Rawlins' assembly page

### **Virtual school trip**

On Wednesday, we had a lovely virtual school trip to Amsterdam to see a wonderful painting by Van Gogh. It has been lovely to see photos and read comments about what you all got up to! We are looking forward to next Wednesday's trip, which is going a bit further away than Amsterdam...

### **Website**

We would like to include some photos from home learning on the school website in our 'News and events' section. Anything which is uploaded to eSchools is contained within that site, and by

uploading photos to eSchools, we take that as your consent for eSchools, where photos can be seen by other children in the class or anyone else in the group. If you would prefer for just the class teacher to see any photos, then just write a 'new message' to the class teacher and it will only be visible to them.

On the website, we would not use children's names, nor would we publish photos of children we do not have school photo permissions for. If we identify photos we would like to put on the website, then we will make contact with you to seek permission before doing so. Of course, if you are happy for photos you send to be published without us contacting you, then please email the office to let us know, and we will make a note of that.

### **New resources which may be useful:**

There have been many resources created to support learning at home. I just wanted to share these 3 with you (I will add links to these resources on the Hub overview page on the Home Learning Hub on the school website.):

#### **1. The Book of Hopes – edited by Katherine Rundell**

This is a lovely collection of short stories, poems, essays and pictures. It features contributions from more than 110 children's writers and illustrators, including Lauren Child, Anthony Horowitz, Axel Scheffler, Francesca Simon and Jacqueline Wilson. The collection is dedicated to the doctors, nurses, carers, porters, cleaners and everyone currently working in hospitals.

[https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/?mc\\_cid=ef035c5137&mc\\_eid=a43c46400d](https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/?mc_cid=ef035c5137&mc_eid=a43c46400d)

#### **2. 25 non-screen activities you can try at home – pdf of this will be on the website and is attached to the email.**

#### **3. Coronavirus: A book for children**, produced by Nosy Crow and illustrated by Axel Scheffler ('The Gruffalo' illustrator), which you may choose to consider using with your children. I will put the download on the website, but not on eSchools, so that you have the choice whether to use it or not.

This book can also be read on screen or downloaded free from the link below. Professor Graham Medley, Professor of Infectious Disease Modelling at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, said this about the book:

*"This pandemic is changing children's lives across the globe and will have a lasting impact on us all. Helping children understand what is going on is an important step in helping them cope and making them part of the story – this is something that we are all going through, not something being done to them. This book puts children IN the picture rather just watching it happen, and in a way that makes the scary parts easier to cope with."*

<https://nosycrow.com/blog/released-today-free-information-book-explaining-coronavirus-children-illustrated-gruffalo-illustrator-axel-scheffler/>

Also, here is a link to a competition opportunity for KS2 children - a poetry competition linked to National Poetry Day. Information is also on the Reading group page on eSchools.

<https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/submit-poem-entry>

This has been a much longer message than I planned! We hope that you and your family remain safe and well, and look forward to seeing and reading all of the eSchool messages over the coming days.

With very best wishes  
Diane Rawlins  
Deputy Headteacher

