

GREENFYLDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL

Incorporating Cygnets and Sunny Ile Pre Schools

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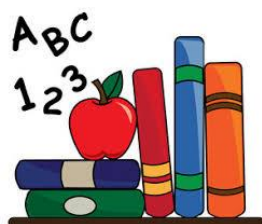
Newsletter No: 16 Friday 22nd January 2021

You are all stars!

A year ago, none of us would probably have imagined we would be in a third national lockdown and we know that this is and remains, a difficult time for everyone. Nobody's story at this time will be the same, be it pressure from learning at home, working at home or out supporting the country as a critical or key worker but please take a moment to realise how much you have achieved. As a school, we want to be there for our community in whatever way we can as together we are stronger to get through this pandemic. Please keep supporting us by following all the lockdown guidance, just as we will as staff, so that we do minimise the number of contacts we meet to try and lower community transmission and reduce pressure on the NHS. It is so difficult when naturally as humans we are sociable beings but please try and ensure your children and families maintain social distancing and not meet with others beyond your household and sanctioned bubbles, in order to not only protect themselves but also those they may be with, especially those coming into school.



As a school, we currently have 45% of our school population in as critical workers or vulnerable children. We do look at each case on an individual basis and please do not be offended if we ask for proof as we will offer places in line with the guidance but also want to ensure we can maintain staffing and social distancing in classes (excluding Early Years where social distancing guidance is different). Please remember critical workers can be in if one parent qualifies but only if there is nobody left at home who could support the blended learning. Again, we would reiterate that every family has unique circumstances so we do ask that families do not speculate on the circumstances of others, rather if you wish to discuss your child you contact us at school.



We are very proud of the way our staff have adapted to this full blended learning model, especially as with numbers in, all class based staff are needed daily in school. This lockdown, as you may be aware is very different as this time, the Government have not disappplied the curriculum so learning continues at home and school and teachers are ensuring children are not disadvantaged either way in the curriculum they are following. Staff are always available to answer any questions on the learning and can be contacted by Tapestry, Class DoJo or via the school office. We do appreciate that blended learning can feel quite daunting for some, so remember we are here to help but do ask that staff are approached respectfully as they are also managing their own needs in this pandemic like every other family.

Government guidance is that children in Key Stage 1 should complete 3 hours learning a day and 4 hours for those in Key Stage 2. Please note this is not expected to be done in one sitting and rather we would suggest lots of breaks, including movement breaks to make this more manageable. Also, don't feel you need to do hours to complete one subject, if your child is getting stuck better to stop after a reasonable time and let the teacher know so that they can support any misconceptions.

We have loved having our community back together with the Zoom class meetings and worships and would encourage all to engage in these to keep that sense of Greenfylde belonging. If you have lost any links for these, please contact Hannah our Receptionist via the school office.

Wellbeing

Whilst we don't know how long this current lockdown will last, we would like to encourage families to share their wellbeing tips. Please send these in via the school office email and we will share via the newsletters.

This week, we have an idea from Arthur and Edward who suggest growing sunflowers to brighten up everyone's day. Here is their wellbeing idea:

Arthur and Edward would like to invite everyone to grow a neighbourhood Sunflower to celebrate our lovely community we live in.

We have bought some seeds that we are going to share with our neighbours and wondered if you could do the same by popping a few in an envelope or a pot and enjoy the fun of growing it with your neighbour?

It's a nice thing to take our minds off of everything and a good way to check in with your neighbours and friends (at a distance of course), there is nothing nicer to think someone is thinking of you

It is just for fun because size doesn't matter, so any type of sunflower will do, seeds can be bought locally or online!

It will be lovely to plant them in our front or back gardens or you could even put in a large pot or an old washing up bowl full of compost, be as creative as you like!

If you don't fancy growing a Sunflower then what about doing a lovely picture of a Sunflower for your window, it will make everyone smile as they see it!

We hope you enjoy joining us in sharing our little way of making us all smile!

Best wishes

Arthur & Edward



Free School Meal Vouchers

Now that the Government has reopened the voucher scheme, those eligible for free school meals and not in school will be receiving electronic vouchers via email next week. We have combined the remaining weeks of this half term into one voucher, which includes £15 per child per week or pro rata if your child is attending school for part of the week. At half term we will be issuing Tesco gift cards to those families in receipt of free school meals in the same way we did at Christmas. Please note this does not include Universal Infant Free School meals given to all in Years R, 1 and 2.

Covid

A reminder that any information e.g if your child or someone in your household is self isolating, waiting for a test or when they have received a result should be sent by email to the school office at greenfylde@educ.somerset.gov.uk..

If your child is still coming into school they must not come in if they have any Covid symptoms or if anyone else in their household has them and is waiting for a test.

Please can we also ask that the adult dropping off/picking up children still in school wears a mask if possible.



Reading fun

Each week Oak National Academy online will include a featured author and a chance to read some of their books for free. The link is <https://library.thenational.academy/> and this week the featured author is Jacqueline Wilson.

Further newsletters

We did try a letter last week like the first lockdown but have decided this time we will keep going with our weekly newsletters so look out for these each Friday.





Sunny-Ile Pre-School Cygnet Pre-School Newsletter 22 January 2021



Sunny Ile and Cygnet Pre School

We hope all our families are staying warm and dry in this cold wet weather we are having this week. Have you splashed in really big puddles in your wellies, we would love to see your photographs, please upload to Tapestry.

Toys

Our Covid-19 risk assessment, which adheres to current Government Guidelines, states that due to a risk of transmitting the virus, toys are not permitted to be brought to nursery from home. Please help staff and children by keeping to these guidelines

Useful Resources

A useful document "What to expect, when?" published by 4Children supported by Department for Education, is guidance for parents about children's learning & development in EYFS and is available to download

https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/04/4Children_ParentsGuide_2015_FINAL_WEBv2.pdf

We thought you might also find the following website useful and interesting when looking for activities to do with your children at home:

The Imagination Tree - <http://theimaginationtree.com>

And this website has interesting information for the health of your children:

St John's Ambulance baby CPR - <https://www.sja.org.uk/get-advice/first-aid-advice/paediatric-first-aid/how-to-do-cpr-on-a-child/>

I'm sure you all wish to keep your children safe whilst they are using the Internet. Below is a link to the NSPCC online safety tool to support you and safeguard your children

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Sunny Ile Preschool

This week we have enjoyed mark making and Writing focus. They children have enjoyed different activities of creating marks and describing what they have made. At Preschool we learn more about describing what they have "drawn" and how to hold a pencil correctly, developing our fine motor skills. We have also been looking at different signs and talking about what they mean.

Story time on Zoom

Don't forget that we are holding a story time over zoom with the team. This is a lovely way to share stories with our families who are at home. Our next story time is on Tuesday at 10.30am. Please see the link on the email to join in.

Adult Led Focus

We will be concentrating on Numbers - Can you count to 10? can you compare all the fruit in the bowl? Do you have more apples than bananas? Can you see numbers around your house?



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Cygnet Pre School

Tapestry:

Thank you to everyone for keeping in touch with us via tapestry, we have loved seeing what you've been getting up to. Please keep an eye out for our weekly uploads for activities and sound of the week.

Face coverings:

We would like to thank you all for ensuring face coverings are worn for drop off and collection times, as well as social distancing being observed.

W leg sitting.

Please keep an eye out for an information about 'W leg sitting' via email and tapestry. If you spot your child sitting on the floor in this position at home could we please ask that you encourage them to sit with their legs to the front of them or perhaps lean against a wall to sit to enable core support to be aided?

Zoom calls:

Please keep an eye on your emails, we will be setting up a weekly zoom call for all children of Cygnets especially those of you who aren't attending preschool at the moment so you can join in with a game or a story with us.

Letter of the week:

Next week our letter of the week will be W. We would love for you to continue to find things around the home which link to this sound and we love seeing the different things you find being uploaded onto tapestry.