



The Priory School Newsletter

Spring Issue 2 - Friday 15th January 2021

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HEADTEACHER UPDATE

After the challenges of last week, we are beginning to settle into our new routines and I hope that is true for you at home.

Remote Learning Update

99% of the school are engaging with our online learning provision (either at home or in school). We are delighted with this response, especially as we know how difficult it is for some of you to access the learning resources. We are imminently expecting 8 Government issued laptops and 7 donated ones which we will loan out as soon as they have been checked by our IT technician. I would like to say a huge thank you to the grandparents of Sia Markland and local tech company 'Wiseguys' for their generosity.

If we have not already contacted you and you require a laptop to support remote learning, please email the school office.

Key Worker and Vulnerable Children Update

55 children have registered for our on-site provision. Our average attendance is about 42 each day and this compares to 8 in the March lockdown. In school the learning is accessed as if they were at home, so all children are receiving a similar and equitable experience. We are extremely grateful to our Teaching Assistants who are delivering the majority of this support.

I would also like to thank our key worker families who are only using the school as a last resort - thank you.

Free School Meal Update

We decided not to issue food hampers in this lockdown and that seems to have been a wise decision in the current climate. The government are opening the national voucher scheme on Monday 18th January through 'Edenred'. In the meantime, families should receive their vouchers for the last 2 weeks from Wonde today.

If your circumstances have changed and you require support, please contact the school. We can explain how you can access emergency and long term support.

Lateral Flow Testing Update

It was announced on Wednesday that regular testing for Coronavirus of Primary School staff would start next week. As yet, we have received no information about how this will work or if it will be rolled out for children. I will share details as they become available.

Mr Ruffle



School Mission Statement

"Inspiring a generation to learn, flourish and achieve in a caring, Christian community"



Gerald Crabb - Funeral Service Tuesday 19th January

A reminder that the funeral cortege will drive past the school (up Wick Lane) at approximately 9.30am. You are very welcome to pay your respects by standing with us - at a safe distance.

Donations are being received in Gerald's memory for The Kidney Care UK and Macmillan Caring Locally. These may be made online using this [link](#), or alternatively cheques may be sent c/o Tapper Funeral Service, 89-91 Barrack Road, Christchurch, Dorset, BH2 3AJ.



Daily Attendance Status

The Government has asked schools to complete a daily 'status register'. They want to track the number of pupils self-isolating, testing positive for COVID-19 and who are unwell.

Even if you are not eligible to be in school, please contact the school office to let us know if:

- Your child is displaying symptoms
- Your child is awaiting test results
- Your child is self-isolating as a result of someone else in the household testing positive or displaying symptoms
- Your child tests positive
- Your child is unwell with an unrelated illness

A small comfort, amidst the spiralling rates locally (3,414 new cases in the last 7 days in BCP), is that there have not yet been any confirmed COVID-19 cases amidst our own pupils and staff.

Weekly Vlog - Cosy Corners, Hot Chocolates and a Good Book

Next week will see our first Weekly Vlog.

The weather forecast is pretty miserable, so what could be better than finding a cosy corner, making your favourite hot drink and diving into a good book? Watch the teachers' choices on Monday.

Don't forget at home to make the most of the new Oxford Owl resource and their extensive e-library. Everyone loves Biff and Chip!

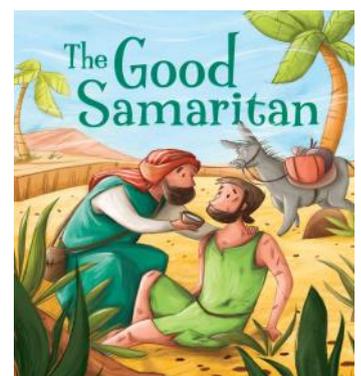


Worship Theme Compassion

Luke 10 v37 And Jesus said, "Go and do likewise."

We introduced our new worship value to the children this week - Compassion. Reception and Year 1 pod acted out the story of the Good Samaritan in our Monday Zoom Worship. It is easy to think of examples of people today who help others, no matter whether they are their friends or not.

We were all challenged to see who we can help at the moment.





Week 2 - Remote Learning Lessons

We continue to develop and adapt our online offer to the children.

The Department of Education has clarified expectations for parents with this document: <https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/01/08/what-should-remote-education-look-like-how-can-your-child-learn-remotely-if-you-dont-have-a-laptop-we-answer-your-remote-learning-questions/>

I think this was in response to the limited support provided by a number of schools in the first lockdown. **The intention now is for schools to provide 3 hours of work for EYFS and KS1 pupils and 4 hours for KS2 pupils.**

This does NOT mean your child has to complete 4 hours of work, but that sufficient work is provided.

Priory School's remote learning offer is detailed in our 'Remote Learning Policy' on the website. We have decided to provide a blended package, including online, textbook, teacher-led and external resources.

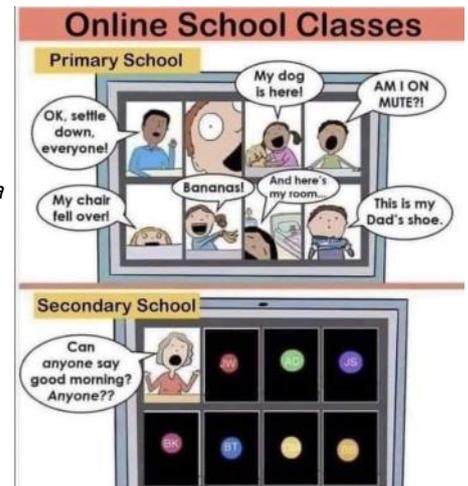
The key elements are:

- 30 minutes (approx.) LIVE Daily Meet with the class teacher.
- A daily download of work, set as assignments on Google Classroom. This will include instructions (sometimes recorded), activity sheets and links to other resources especially Oak National Academy and BBC Bitesize.
- A focus on Maths and English which is 'core' work i.e. should be completed by all pupils each day. Teachers will respond to this work daily through written or verbal feedback (called notes).
- Teachers are available between 9am—3pm each day to support remote learning, but between 12—3 teachers will be marking and planning work for the next day so may not be immediately available.
- An additional 'project' task will be assigned every day based on another subject area. Science and French will feature at least once a week.
- Textbooks will be used regularly including Maths No Problem and CGP core skills books.
- A variety of digital learning platforms, most notably Reading Plus for Y6, IXL and Oxford Owl.
- EYFS will still follow a 'learning through play' curriculum

We will try to enrich this basic offer (e.g. through additional challenges and collective, virtual events) to stay connected with the children and maintain their engagement.

Top Ten Do's and Don'ts for Parents

1. **Do not** listen to the unhelpful media hype that your child will forget how to hold a knife and fork and go up 4 waist sizes. This is not what happened to our children last time. It was tough but children are resilient and they bounced back. It is the school's job to fill any learning gaps that might develop and we know how to do this.
2. **Do not** feel guilty if you are unable to support your child like the 'super parents' down the road. Each person's capacity is different and many of you are balancing parenting and demanding work commitments. The grass is always greener...
3. **Do** encourage your child to complete the core English and Maths task by 2pm each day (don't worry about the starter tasks at first). If it is a difficult day, simply attend the Daily Meet, focus on your child's reading (at least 10 mins a day for all ages) and some daily writing. The core skill booklets are really useful for this, even simply writing out the answers.





Week 2 - Remote Learning Lessons (cont)

4. **Do** allow your child to play with their toys away from the screen. We remember from last time that small world imaginary play (e.g. Sylvanian families) or time spent with construction sets (e.g. Lego) are really beneficial.
5. **Do** plenty of outdoor exercise - it is recommended that children are active for at least 60 minutes a day. We are so lucky because walking to a park, the river or the beach are all possible.
6. **Do** keep checking in on your child's learning if at all possible. Just because they are staring at a screen does not mean they are listening. Keep checking for understanding by asking them questions or by getting them to repeat what they have learnt so far. Children crave the attention of their parents so the more you engage with the work set, the more they will want to impress you (and the teacher).
7. **Do** use IXL to develop independent learning. It is basically like completing a straightforward page of questions, with instant feedback. Children love it and it can give you 10 minutes peace and quiet.
8. **Do** let your teacher know (through the school office email), if your child is struggling and losing motivation. We will all have good days and bad days, but if a pattern is emerging - let us know!
9. **Do not** worry if you find some of the Maths confusing. We have had lots of feedback about this. If you have both hit a brick wall with it and there is no catch-up session then simply redirect your child to a similar objective on IXL. Do take each day at a time.
10. **Do** try to read a story every day with your child (or sit and listen together to the teacher versions).

As the wise Tom Hanks once said, 'This too shall pass...'



"Act as though you have COVID-19"

Matt Hancock, the UK Health Secretary, advised the nation this week to act as though we had COVID-19, as the infection levels are so high. In school we are not in a position to do that, but his point was a serious one and we can all play our part.

- Stay at home
- Reduce all non-essential social contact

I would certainly expect this of all key worker families who are using our provision and places will be withdrawn if national rules are not followed. I will not put my staff or other children at unnecessary risk during the peak of this crisis.

