

29th January 2021

News from this week

Learning packs

We are looking to develop our learning packs further by offering reading books as part of your child's learning pack. We recognise that although lots of families have books at home, they won't necessarily be at the level which your child needs to continue developing their reading. If you would like a reading book in your pack from next Friday, please send your classteacher a ClassDojo message or an email so that they can choose a book that would be appropriate for your child's level. All we ask is that when you return your child's folder the following week that you also return the reading book to us. If you have any reading books at home that your children have read, please return these when you next come to school. Children in Y2 to Y6 will be able to complete a quiz when they have finished reading their book on Accelerated Reader. The link for the website is on the school website under the Remote Education tab.

As always, any problems, questions or worries about the remote education, contact your child's classteacher in the first instance. If you have worries or concerns about your child's wellbeing or mental health, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Lowerson from Monday to Thursday or myself on Fridays. We are both working at school.

Packs for next week are available at school for collection anytime from 7.30am each morning to 5.30pm each evening except Friday when the office is closed at 4pm.

Remote Education

We will be focusing on Children's Mental Health week next week through the mindfulness sessions. Please encourage your child to join in with these activities.

Information for next week

Zoom sessions

We are continuing to hold zoom sessions for children at home however we are changing these slightly to allow more time for the teaching staff to connect with the children at home. This means that some of the zoom sessions will not have the children in school in them so that the teacher can talk more easily to the children that we are not seeing. Please encourage your child to take part in these sessions. We are considering whether we should start holding a short zoom session every day and would appreciate your feedback about your thoughts on whether this would be possible or helpful for your family. Please complete this survey which only has 3 questions:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdt6V-agdV454IzXwV1zoYGye8uHeO2F5i-Z4w_FKbFviwgGg/viewform?usp=sf_link

If you need details for the meetings, please contact your child's classteacher.

Please make sure that all people in the home know that your child is on zoom to the rest of their year group during the call so that we don't get any unwanted video or audio footage during the calls. Please make sure that your child is appropriately dressed for the calls. If we have concerns about the video or sound coming from your child's call, we will stop the video or mute them.

The meetings take place as follows:

Monday and Thursday at 9.30am	Year 6
Monday and Thursday at 11am	Year 2
Monday and Thursday at 1pm	Reception
Monday and Thursday at 2pm	Year 1
Tuesday and Friday at 9.30am	Year 3
Tuesday and Friday at 11am	Year 4
Tuesday and Friday at 1pm	Year 5

Dress to Express this Mental Health week!

We will be taking part in Children's Mental Health Week and fundraising to support the mental health of children and young people within Calderdale. This is an issue that we feel is now more important than ever.

Children's Mental Health Week is taking place from 1 – 7 February 2021 and is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on and raise awareness for children and young people's mental health.

On Friday we will be asking all our children to "Dress To Express" with the idea being that we encourage children to use colour to express themselves by wearing a colourful outfit (either at school or at home). Our lives are full of colour and we can use colour to help make sense of how we're feeling, who we are and the world we live in. Your children could wear their favourite colour or choose a range of colours that express how they're feeling. Colour can be very personal and mean different things to different people, so this is a great opportunity to encourage self-expression and celebrate a diverse range of emotions while also having a reason to talk about them.

To support a valuable local charity, we ask that all children who take part make a small contribution, either by bringing their donation to school on the day or by making a donation online via the School Gateway. We will be donating the money to a local charity called 'Noah's Ark'.

Ark Centre'. Noah's Ark was established in 2000 to serve the locality of Ovenden, expanding over recent years to cover the whole of Calderdale. It was built by the community, for the community, with the aim of improving user's mental, emotional and financial wellbeing. They are now the largest voluntary-sector provider of therapeutic services in Calderdale, providing a safe haven and place of hope for the whole community. We have been grateful of their support ourselves for some of our children and want to show them how much they are appreciated by fundraising for them in this way.

If your child dresses to express on Friday, please send Mrs Barton a photo with a little explanation of why they've chosen their particular outfit as we are hoping to produce a display in school!

Other information

February Half Term

School will close to all pupils on Friday 12th February and will not be open to critical workers or vulnerable children during half term.

For those families who are receiving FSM vouchers, you will not receive a voucher for the week of half term but you may be able to access support through the Covid Winter Grant Scheme which is organised by Calderdale Council on behalf of the government.

Reopening

As you will have no doubt seen, the prime minister has announced that we will not be able to open school after half term. The earliest date that the government have suggested would be 8th March but we have been promised that we will be given two weeks' notice of a reopening so that we can communicate with you and make necessary arrangements. We are clearly disappointed about the continued need for remote education but look forward to a time when we can welcome children back that are currently working at home.

School Dinners

School dinners are back to a cooked food option alongside a sandwich option for those in school. The menu is the same each week and where possible will follow this pattern:

Monday Tomato and Basil Pasta with garlic bread Tuna or ham sandwich Biscuit or Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit
Tuesday Fish fingers with herby diced potatoes and sweetcorn Tuna or ham sandwich Chocolate sponge and custard or Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit
Wednesday Roast Chicken Dinner Cheese or chicken sandwich Raspberry Ripple Mousse or Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit
Thursday Sausage butty with herby diced potatoes and beans Cheese or chicken sandwich Chocolate Fudge pudding and custard or Yoghurt or

Fresh Fruit
Friday Pizza with chips and beans Cheese or ham sandwich Lemon drizzle pudding and custard or Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit

Withinfields' Lottery

We will be continuing to hold our Withinfields' Lottery during lockdown so please do not hesitate to buy a ball when you come to collect your child's work each week or pay online and we will ring you so that you can choose your number. The more people that are in it, the greater the prize money!

Crowd funding

We are part of The Valley Learning Partnership and they are working in consultation with Calderdale Council and community organisations to end the digital divide for Calderdale pupils. If you are able to support this worthy cause, please follow this link:

<https://www.rocketfund.org/end-the-digital-divide-for-calderdale-pupils>

FSM vouchers

These are available for families with children eligible for Free School Meals in Reception to Year 6 where they are not able to attend school. This is through the national voucher scheme. Miss Redmond has ordered the vouchers and parents should have received their allocations. If you have any problems, please contact Miss Redmond.

Nursery for September

In the coming months, we will be starting to look at our Nursery intake for September. If you have a child that will be 3 years old by 31.8.21 please let Miss Redmond know if you would like them to have a place in our nursery. She will then be able to let you have the necessary forms to complete.