



Tuesday 2nd June 2020

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I hope you have had a lovely half term – at least the weather has been glorious.

I am sure that you will all appreciate that since the government announcement about schools re-opening, the last three weeks have been extremely busy. It is no exaggeration to say that it has been a huge undertaking to plan and prepare for more children to come into school, because of course, we have remained open to children since 23rd March, throughout term time and the school holidays for our children of critical workers. If you indicated on the forms returned by 20th May that you would like your child to return to school then we have sent further information to you about this.

The majority of children will remain at home this half term and so I am writing with an update on home learning. This letter is later being sent than planned and this is due to some very important updates being received this afternoon, which have meant that we have had to prioritise our risk assessments for re-opening Barrow Hedges.

With almost all of our teachers returning to work to supervise 'bubbles' (groups of children) across the school, our Google Classroom provision will be changing a little going forwards:

- Learning will continue, at home and in school, but new activities will now only be set on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as school is shut on Wednesdays for teachers' planning and preparation time and also to enable it to have a deep clean.
- Wednesdays provide an opportunity to work on the topic activities that teachers set at the beginning of the half term. These were previously optional.
- If you would like additional activities to work through on a Wednesday, there are plenty of excellent online resources available such as BBC Bitesize and Oak National Academy. There is also a list of other suggestions at the end of this letter. As the children's wellbeing is so important, where possible, it would great for children to do an activity that they enjoy – spend time outdoors, play a board game, do some reading, arts and crafts or something else they enjoy.



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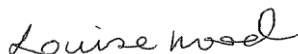


- You may also notice that some lessons are taking a slightly different format, especially as we move towards supporting revision of the most important key skills. There will be several different interactive links and activities for you to work through and we hope that the children will find these enjoyable and beneficial.
- As of this week, teachers will not be providing individual feedback on assignments that are handed in. Most year groups will have one member of staff continuing to monitor Google Classroom and Tapestry, who will give clear instructions and support, but please do be patient with us as we continue to adapt and adjust to the 'new normal'.
- As teachers and teaching assistants will be in school throughout the week, comments may be turned off in your child's Google Classroom at times when no one will be available to respond. Feedback on Tapestry will mostly be in the form of 'likes'. Each child's Reception teacher will continue to publish your child's observations to continue to monitor progress. Each year group's arrangements will vary slightly, dependent on whether or not they have a member of their team who is still working from home; the exact details of when teachers will be 'checking in' will be posted to the individual classrooms.
- As school is closed on a Wednesday, this is the day that all teachers will be able to respond to more general queries. On Wednesdays, only 'commenting' will be turned back on and the 'posting' function will remain disabled to enable teachers to provide the appropriate support to children.

We do recognise that home learning has brought its challenges for us all and we realise that this is another change. However, we do hope that you will appreciate and understand that with the school re-opening and staff being back in school we have no option but to make these adjustments.

Thank you for your support in this matter and as always, do contact us should you require any further guidance.

Kind regards



Mrs Louise Wood
Headteacher

USEFUL WEBSITES – POSSIBLE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WEDNESDAYS

Maths

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

<https://nrich.maths.org/9084>

<https://www.mathsisfun.com/>

https://www.ilovemathsgames.com/index_new.html

English

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

As the children won't be able to change their colour banded book, this is a great website to use. There are a number of Oxford Reading Tree e-books that the children will be familiar with. They also have interactive games and activities for reading comprehension, all for free, when you sign up.

<http://www.pobble365.com/>

The image changes daily with story openers/sentence work.

General Learning

<https://www.brainpop.com/>

Username: BarrowHedges

Password: barrow123

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/>

Mindfulness

<https://www.teachstarter.com/gb/blog/classroom-mindfulness-activities-for-children-gb/>

Other

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio>

Good websites for Early Years

www.busythings.co.uk

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex.htm>

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/eyfs/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories>

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home>

<http://www.funwithspot.com>

<http://www.ictgames.com/>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html>

www.poissonrouge.com

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/laac/>

www.abc.net.au/children/play