

# Newsletter

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family continue to stay safe and well. The announcement by the Government last week to hopefully look at children returning to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March, confirms the long-term nature of remote learning that many of us suspected would be the case. This presents a significant burden on all families and I am sure children are looking forward to when they can get back into school with their friends.

Each week we review and offer a limited number of pupil places in school, as explained in my previous letter. Please contact me if you wish your child to be considered for a place. We will try our best to accommodate if it is safe to do so. Places are based on a number of variables such as limiting the total number of pupils in school and staff available to be in school. Priority is given to critical worker parents, our most vulnerable pupils and our youngest children who cannot engage in remote learning and require an early years' pedagogy.

Many parents wish to keep their child at home. Children have been accessing provision through remote learning and engaging more with the blended offer. The remote learning menu content and pre-recorded sessions are accessed each week through the school website. This now includes a second menu for our formal learners.

Thank you to those parents who took time to complete our survey about how we can continue to improve and develop our remote learning offer and provision. If you have not yet completed the digital survey, it would be enormously helpful if you could spare a few minutes to do so. We will be following this with a pupil survey this week to gain pupil voice and their views about the remote learning offer.

Most pupils are now adapting and engaging very well remotely, with the daily check-in. This activity is supporting the development of social communication, interaction skills and emotional literacy for many of our learners. We are aiming for 100% engagement by all children to link into and participate in their live daily 'virtual registration' with their class group and teacher. Please support your child to do so. This is a short session to ensure children are managing, are safe and well and enables them to stay connected and maintain interaction with their peers. Through this session, children can tell their teacher how they are feeling today by applying the zones of regulation and we can further address their sensory and physical as well as social, emotional and mental health needs. This daily session is important for well-being and especially pertinent as it is Children's Mental Health week this week.

## Children's Mental Health Week

The current pandemic, puts even greater emphasis on the fact that this week is Children's Mental Health Week and is more important than ever this year. This year's theme is '**Express Yourself**'. Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that make us feel good.



It is important to remember that being able to **express yourself** is not about being the best at something or putting on a performance for others. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself. It is about having a voice.

For Children's Mental Health Week 2021 we will be encouraging children (and adults) to explore the different ways we can **express ourselves**, and the creative ways that we can share our feelings, our thoughts and our ideas. We look forward to sharing some of the creative work produced next week.

This link may be useful for parents to support exploring how your child can express themselves. [free online resources and access to an assembly on Monday.](#)

## Pupils of the Week

This newsletter, celebrates the introduction of '*pupil of the week*' for each class and/or tutor group. We acknowledge the effort and engagement of our pupils with their learning and provision, both those in school and remote learning. Congratulations to all our pupils of the week! They have been nominated by their teachers as standing out for their persistence, demonstrating our school values and 'expressing themselves':

Name	Staff & Class	The learning that pupils have demonstrated...
Sam Fountain	Mrs Travers Busy Bees	Sam helped to build an igloo outside with the big, wooden building blocks by following instructions to place them 'on top of' and 'next to' other blocks.
Evie Madeira	Ms Callis Butterfly	Evie has been communicating clearly so that adults can understand her wants and needs. Also, after observing others in the snow, Evie independently made different sized snowballs to make her own snowman!
Dominic Grubb	Mr Eusebi Badger	Dominic has demonstrated good listening in order to follow instructions; including completing a word search all by himself!

Tommy Height	Ms Humphreys Mouse	Tommy used a range of connectives in his weekend news writing on Monday.
David Prince	Ms Miteva Dragonfly	David used language through drawing pictures to describe his feelings linked to Zones of Regulation. David also matched cards to label 2D shapes.
Noah Lopez-Gaskin	Mr Spalding Owl	During the daily remote learning check-in, Noah linked facial expressions to the four zones of regulation. He selected the appropriate emoji to communicate how each character from a story was feeling and created his own emotive characters using pixel art.
Charlie Merritt	Mr Humphreys Wolf	Charlie has continued to engage most positively when accessing the remote learning menu; demonstrating responsibility and maturity in his approach to the learning tasks and increasing self-esteem.
Mason Smith	Mr English Magpie	Maths: Mason shared his maths knowledge to help another by demonstrating how to multiply a 2 digit number by a single digit number.
Toby Webster	Ms Dunn Kingfisher	Toby showed excellent understanding of the zones and applied this knowledge to communicate what zone he is in.
Georgie Sked	Ms Walker Robin	Cooking: Georgie cooked a batch of cupcakes independently and used vocabulary about the cake mix; such as creaming, adding air and could answer questions such as why baking powder is added to a recipe.
Connor Greening	Mr Allen Falcon	English: Connor made thoughtful inferences during a reading 'Of Mice and Men' and transferred this to his writing.

We are looking forward to another great week ahead. Please do continue to contact school with any questions you may have or how we can support you further in any way.

Warm regards,



Mrs Laura Ives  
(Principal)