

To enable all children to achieve, access, participate and contribute to their community for life'

Kindness

Inclusivity

Resilience

Respect

Openness

Understanding

Empathy



Newsletter

Monday 22nd February 2021.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone had a good holiday last week and fingers crossed the light at the end of this lockdown tunnel is getting a little bit nearer and a bit brighter as we move forward.

My thanks to everyone who with such community spirit made last term as positive and supportive as it could be. I asked teachers to rest and reflect over the half term as it has been quite a journey and a challenging time for our profession, but without doubt the staff of the Academy have risen to such challenge with agility, resilience and commitment.

I would like to thank Mr Spalding (primary phase leader) and Mr Humphreys (secondary phase leader) who are doing a fantastic job to co-ordinate a coherent and ambitious curriculum which continues provision of a blended approach to remote learning. This has been achieved through the weekly digital learning menus along with teacher's daily live face to face teaching with their class and individual pupils. We have strived to ensure our pupils have continued with a quality first curriculum that addresses the provision of their EHC plan - despite the rhetoric we hear in the media of lost learning. Engagement with remote learning has been effective and I am grateful to parents and carers for how you have supported at home with this – as a parent, I appreciate it is not easy. However, we hope through remote learning, this provides you a unique opportunity to glimpse the high quality of lessons, teaching and learning experiences that your child is offered at Medeshamstede, especially our whole school provision for Zones of Regulation and social thinking.

And so, it is onwards to a new half term starts which starts on a positive note with signs of Spring appearing all around and an optimistic sense of new beginnings in the air. We eagerly await to hear what the update from the government today brings for their planned road map to lift us slowly out of lockdown and of course for when and how children will be returning to school.

This term reception to Y9 will embark on a new class curriculum theme adapted from our Cornerstones curriculum. The imaginative learning projects are selected appropriate to stage of learning and linked to the interests of children, in order to excite and engage them, while covering a broad, balanced and full curriculum based on the National Curriculum and EYFS framework for pre-formal learners. Your child's teacher will email you the imaginative learning project theme for the class and details of their intended curriculum coverage this term. Curriculum details can also be found on our website.

Our pupils in key stage 4 and Y11 continue transition planning for college/post-16 along with course work and the syllabus towards their qualifications at the end of the year including the provision of their EHCPs.

The academy has introduced a whole school initiative with Skills Builder Partnership for all pupils in KS1 – KS 4. The intent is to use The Skills Builder universal framework to build essential skills at every stage of life through teaching a research based programme that supports broader learning and careers plans, including aspirations from a young age in preparation for adulthood. The Skills Builder framework gives us a simple, shared language around eight essential skills built into academy life, through all activities, appropriate to the stage related of the individual. This framework and principles support building the essential life skills of:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Problem Solving
- Creativity
- Staying Positive
- Aiming High
- Leadership
- Teamwork

The Academy have started with the skill of 'staying positive' as this is most appropriate to the present climate in light of the pandemic. You many have observed teachers have begun to introduce this theme and through series of lessons in their remote teaching.

Pupils of the Week

Hearty congratulations to all our pupils of the week and to all teachers for a great job last half term in the balancing act of remote and in school learning. Congratulations to all our pupils of the week (ending 12th February). They have been nominated by their teachers as standing out for their persistence, demonstrating our school values and 'expressing themselves' below:

Name	Staff & Class	The learning that pupils have demonstrated...
Esther	Mrs Travers Busy Bees	In her language and communication skills development, Esther has been learning to match animals to the sound they make. Esther also sang a rendition of the traditional song 'Old MacDonald had a Farm' and was word perfect!
Kobi	Ms Webster Caterpillar	Kobi demonstrated focussed attention, independently performing the daily 'wake and shake' music and movement activities, as part of his daily routine for optimum alertness - ready for learning.
Reggie	Ms Callis Butterfly	Reggie has applied his phonological knowledge to reading and writing and has even moved up to the next phase of 'Letters and Sounds' through his remote learning. Reggie has also applied his reading skills, including inference, to complete comprehension tasks.
Armaan	Mrs Pembery Badger	Communication and language development: during the morning 'song and sign' check in at home, Armaan joined in with the class to sing and perform the actions to the song. and then said "goodbye Mrs Pembery and "goodbye Ms Carter".
Malachy	Ms Humphreys Mouse	Malachy has given great effort to apply his skills and knowledge to reading this week.
Matas	Ms Miteva Dragonfly	For resilience to complete his home learning task to accurately adding and subtract to 20 .

Grzegorz	Mr Spalding Owl	Grzegorz used a power point to describe each of the Zones of Regulation and provide emotions that may be felt in each zone. Grzegorz will use the power point in his daily 'check in' with his teacher, Mr Spalding, while remote learning to support describing how he feels each day and to retain good well-being.
Rubi	Mrs Kauser Hawk	Rubi independently measured ingredients and baked a lemon cake. She then organised the sequence of the process. Rubi used a range of new connectives to start her sentences in writing an account of how she made the cake.
William	Ms Naysmith Buzzard	 <p>William is an eager collector of historical objects. He has currently established a collection of coke cans from decades past. He has demonstrated his talent in drawing this can from his collection.</p>
Hanniyah	Mr English Magpie	Hanniyah has been thinking carefully about her choice of vocabulary in order to incorporate more complex sentences and description into her written work.
Anneka	Ms Dunn Kingfisher	High engagement with the class learning chat and dialogue within MS Teams - even writing her own story series.
Jason	Ms Walker Robin	A consistent and positive attitude in contributing to morning tutorials, adding fun and laughter into the morning class greetings session and spreading positivity to others.
Toby	Mr Allen Falcon	Demonstrating the skill of staying positive and the value of resilience through the current climate.

We are looking forward to a positive term ahead with Spring just around the corner. Please do continue to contact school and your with any questions you may have or how we can support you further in any way.

Warm regards,



Mrs Laura Ives
(Principal)

Lastly, for our parents who are key workers or regularly going out to work, please see the communication below from Jonathan Lewis (Service Director – Education, Cambridgeshire County Council / Peterborough City Council)

Are you leaving home regularly to go to work?

Parents and carers who are key workers or leaving home regularly to go to work are being urged to have regular rapid result tests to help track cases of Coronavirus and drive down transmission rates.

This is because up to one in three people who are infected with Covid-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading the disease without knowing it

Sites have been set up across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire offering rapid result tests to people aged 18 and over who have no symptoms of Coronavirus. People are being urged to take a test twice a week.

The process of taking a test takes on average 15 minutes from arrival to departure. Results are known within an hour.

To book a test visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting or www.peterborough.gov.uk/rapidtesting

Dr Liz Robin, Director of Public Health for Cambridgeshire, said: “We not only need people to have these tests regularly if they are leaving home for work, we also need them to act responsibly when they get their result. If you test positive, please isolate at home with other members of your household and ask

for help if you need it. There is lots we can do to help you to self-isolate, including offering grants to those who will struggle financially or help with accessing food shopping, fetching medicines and so on.

“The NHS Test and Trace Service will also get in touch with you to offer advice and ask about contacts. If you test negative, please continue to follow national guidance and limit all non-essential contact with others. While the rapid test identifies many people with the virus it doesn’t identify everyone - so following the lockdown rules and other Covid-safe behaviours is essential even if you have a negative test.”

People with symptoms will not be tested at the rapid testing sites. Anyone with one or more of these symptoms – a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – should book a test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119.