



Newsletter January 2021



This has been a very different start to the term to the one we were all expecting! We hope you are all keeping safe and well.

To start, all staff want to say a huge well done to all parents and carers, and children, who are adapting to and managing the challenge of home learning. We know that this is not easy, especially for those parents/ carers who are juggling the balance of supporting more than one child, or work and other commitments, or all of these. You are doing a tremendous job!



We have sought to make the daily lessons as accessible and flexible as possible for everyone. We recognise that not everyone has the same access to devices or is able to follow set times for activities. Hopefully you will have seen how staff have built on previous experience from the first closures in the summer to enhance what we are offering, in line with expectations. Whilst the 'live on line' element remains a challenge for us and families with limited access, we are providing pre- recorded links from other providers to provide 'teaching' elements of a lesson, to allow parents access at a time that works for them. We will introduce 'live' sessions to allow a form of connection with classes, as we know that is what children really miss during these times.



Our suggested timetables are only a guide to creating a routine, which is important when there isn't the routine and structure of coming to school each day. Please create a routine that works best for your family – no family will be the same or have the same set of circumstances to work round.

Most families and teachers are keeping in touch through the class email, or Tapestry by sending work and news and responding to work and providing feedback.

Staff will respond as soon as they are able. They are working their normal hours, either in school or remotely. All have in- school teaching for pupils who are in school and on these days, replies may take a little longer.

If we don't hear from you, staff will make contact to see how things are going, either by email or phone.

There is further information on Home Learning on the school website – go to 'Classes' and then 'Remote learning'

Children's work

Class teachers have been receiving children's work, sent via the class email or Tapestry. We are impressed with what we have seen and the continuing efforts from children to keep up with their learning.

We also ask that you keep your child's work, so that it can be brought to school once we reopen.

We provide books for this, so please come and collect from school if you don't have one.

Gold Book children – We have been so impressed with all your efforts, that we will be continuing with our Gold Book awards each week. These will be for a particular effort with learning or achievement with a piece of work or activity. We are also looking out for those of you staying active indoors and out! Certificates will arrive by email.

Reading

We can provide reading books for your child if required.

These can be collected and exchanged once a week, from school.

Returned books will be quarantined until they can be put back into circulation.

There is more information about supporting reading during the closure on our website – see 'Classes' then 'Remote Learning'.

Please keep up with recording your child's reading in their school reading journal/ diary- especially what they have read.

Norfolk Libraries - Storywriter's Club KS2

Story Writer's Club is a friendly, fun Zoom group for 7-11 year-olds who enjoy bringing their stories to life on the page.

Sessions -Thursdays at **4.15pm**; they will start on **21st January** and run for 4 weeks until February half term, with the last one being Feb 11th. Come along to share ideas or discover new ones and meet other people who enjoy creating too. To find out more, please email libraries.icconnect@norfolk.gov.uk.

Update on National tests

We will continue to do all we can to ensure children make the best progress possible during this year. We are pleased that the government have announced that statutory tests (SATs) for primary pupils have been suspended for the remainder of the academic year. We will still be teaching to the curriculum, and await revised requirements for assessment, but this change will allow us all to focus on the needs of the children and ensuring they are ready and prepared for their next class, or high school.

Dates for your Diary:

Spring Term

Half term 15 – 19 February 2021. Return to School 22nd February 2021

End of term 26th March 2021

Summer Term: Return to School 12th April 2021

Half term 31 May- 4 June 2021 Return to school 7th June 2021

End of term 21st July 2021

Thank you for your ongoing support.

A parent support leaflet from NCC has been added to our website. This includes information about accessing support for families such as emotional health and well-being, food and finances.