

The Whartons' Newsletter

25/1/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

A belated Happy New Year to you all.

Unfortunately, January did not get off to the start we were hoping for and we miss all the children who can't be here.

Now we are a few weeks into the spring term I hope you have all managed to get to grips with the new approach to remote learning. It has been lovely to see the children for my 'live' assembly zooms on a Monday and I know teachers have thoroughly enjoyed checking in twice a day with the children at home too.



Assemblies

Assemblies for this half term will focus on our theme of Goals and Dreams.

We have chatted about the challenge of making New Year's Resolutions. We have also explored some global 'goals' that everyone can play their part in bringing about, if we make small changes to the way we live.

As the half term goes on, I will be talking to the children about the importance of making goals and having long term dreams. I will try to help the children to realise that all goals need to be broken down into manageable steps, and that sometimes we may feel we are not reaching our goals fast enough. It is important at these challenging times that children understand there will be an end to the current difficulties, we need to be patient and life will get back to normal. Making goals for the future will help children to look past the current challenges.

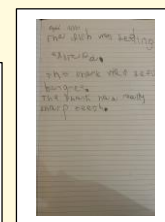
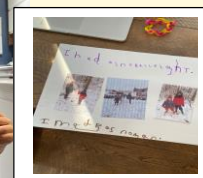
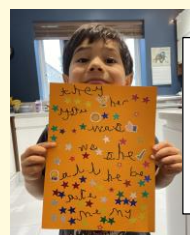
Google Classrooms

We are constantly tweaking our remote learning offer following feedback from parents, as we all becoming more comfortable and confident with using the remote approach.

We have opted for pre-recorded lessons to help with connectivity issues and enable families to alter the timings of lessons to fit into challenging home learning daily organisation. The Oak Academy lessons we have chosen are Government suggested and well structured. Teachers are also pre-recording some of their own sessions to supplement. Children uploading examples to show they have engaged with the sessions helps teachers track progress at home. Please let us know what is working well and any concerns.

Year 1 Enjoy Snow Writing

Children both at school and home are working so hard in Year 1 on their sentences and their tricky words. We are focusing on using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces as well as our neatest handwriting. We had lots of fun writing sentences about our fun in the snow!



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Diary Dates

Half Term Holiday

School closes Fri 12th Feb

School Reopens Mon 22nd Feb.

We await further details of when school will fully reopen to all children.

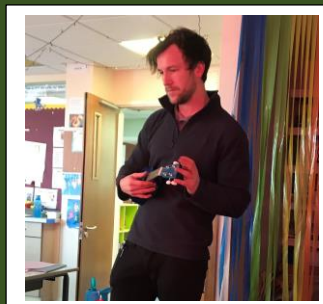
Stay Safe!

Music Lessons

In order to retain a broad and balanced curriculum during this partial school closure, we are trying to offer children at home and at school as many learning opportunities as we can.

Daily remote learning in English, maths and a range of other foundation subjects can be quite intense and challenging. Planning a variety of practical subjects can help engage children's creativity and support more kinaesthetic learning. We are trying to incorporate individual and group music teaching and learning throughout the lockdown. All the peripatetic music teachers continue to offer their teaching via a blend of virtual lessons combined with in school groups. This worked particularly well with the guitar lessons on a Friday afternoon. It was lovely for children at home to join their friends in school via zoom and learn together.

Whilst our external partners Junior Jam lead some music sessions for a couple of bubbles in school, we have loaded interactive music sessions each week onto the Google classroom. Mr J Dow, one of our Red Kite trainee teachers is also planning to pre-record weekly ukulele lessons for year Y4 children, both at school and at home, in a couple of weeks (keep practising Mr Dow). Alongside music, teachers will upload PE, Art and Design technology lessons. Try to encourage children to get creative and share photos or videos over their Google Classroom. Have fun!



Reception Children explore cold climates

Reception have been learning about winter and The Arctic.

They have listened to winter and Arctic stories, created Arctic animals and explored ice.

The recent cold snap and fabulously deep snowfall actually gave all the children an opportunity to explore the snow close up. They could use all their senses to experience what life in a cold climate may be like.

On their class zoom meeting all the children told Ms Matthews about how they had played in the snow, making snow angels and throwing snowballs. Looks so cold in the playground, good job everyone was wrapped up well.

What a fantastic Polar Bear made at home by Elliot!



A final Note:

I am so proud of all the children and how brilliantly they are adapting and coping with this very challenging situation. I thank all the parents for the fabulous job they are doing supporting home learning or indeed carrying out their critical worker roles in society. Take care everyone

Julia Dickson