

6th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I just wanted to touch base again during this unusual period of home learning. It was great to have contact with so many of you while changing your books or over the phone during the welfare checks.

If children would like to change their reading books, they may do so tomorrow between 9:15 and 11:45 am and 1:15 and 3pm. Changing books is a weather permitting job. There are also spare exercise books if you need them that can be collected. Please just drop by during your daily exercise.

Sharing work with teachers

We have had some feedback where children are starting to lack motivation to complete tasks or they need some contact and feedback from their teachers. We have now set Year 1 up on Google Classroom, so all year groups now have the means to upload what they have been doing to share it with their teachers. The teachers can then offer praise and suggested next steps as appropriate. If what you are doing is working for you, that is fine, but if children need further motivation please use this correspondence to say to the children that they 'need' to upload their work for their teachers to see what they are doing. This can be a typed file or a photograph. Some of the children may need your help to do this. Their username and password should be in their reading diary. If your child does not have this information at home, please email info@waycroftacademy.com or phone 0117 3772198 and it can be given to you over the phone.

Wellbeing support

If your children or you are struggling, please contact the school and we will do what we can to help you. Social distancing social story (please see attached document). Some children are finding the concept of social distancing tricky and a social distancing story has been created that may help your children. Each line can be illustrated by your child to make the book their own.

Information from the school nurse has been added to the website here:

https://www.waycroftacademy.com/web/support_for_families/477139

Information from our wellbeing lead in school, Mrs Farrow, has been added to the website here:

<https://www.waycroftacademy.com/web/wellbeing>

Facebook colour challenge

As a simple fun thing to do to pull our school community together, we would like children to do something each week linked to a colour in the rainbow. The week beginning the 11th May will be **RED** and we will continue each week until we get to violet. Each child can express 'red' in their own way such as writing a poem, dressing up in red clothes, collecting all their red toys together, photographs of red things, gathering together a collection of red food items (or making a red based meal), making red Hama beads of flags from around the world, researching football teams that wear red or finding out how to make the colour red- what plant/stone do we get it from. The only limit is your imagination! Hopefully some of the staff will join in too! If you are not on Facebook but would like to contribute, please email your picture or short text to info@waycroftacademy.com and we will upload it for you simply with your child's first name and year group or anonymously if you would prefer.

Unique Voice Stay at Home activity pack – Just a range of nice things to do at home including making slime, den building and riddles. <https://uniquevoice.org/theoffice2/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Home-Activity-Pack.pdf>

Education ideas

Story Challenges – We have uploaded some story challenges recommended to our Reading Recovery teacher. They are three simple ways for KS1 and lower KS2 children to pick out and identify key information in the stories they are reading and begin to make important comparisons.

Writers' Checklists – A few families mentioned that they don't know how to challenge their children or know what the children should be including in their writing for it to be at the expected standard for their age groups. Teachers have created checklists for the children to use and these will be uploaded to the website alongside the work for the week beginning the 11th May.

Age appropriate grammar knowledge – We also introduced this year a weekly grammar exercise for children to complete as they find it tricky to remember all of the terminology. Class teachers have created a grid with the expected grammar for the year group (including an example) that you can use at home. This can be done verbally as you carry out day to day activities or as a sit down activity. You just need to make sure the children give a different example than the week/day before! These along with grammar grids will be added to the website on Friday. It will feel repetitive but it will really help your child remember the key terminology they are expected to know.

Phonics related reading books - https://www.speld-sa.org.au/services/phonics-books.html?fbclid=IwAR3GtuDG_WdOjDTPSSxzBGNsQxwa-W43B9Vp8dMGkNegXHw_tDhwkc3aN4

The books provide several options including an online version, downloadable book option and PDF version for tablets and iPad's. The books provide guidance for parents on how to support with phonics and give suggested comprehension questions. There are also some with quizzes. Please avoid the ones for older readers.

Frequently Asked Questions

When is school reopening?

At this point in time, we are still watching the daily government briefings and have the same information that you do. Schools have been told that they will be given a lead in time to set up anything to allow schools to open and we are ready to act on this when the time comes.

Am I entitled to free school meals as my circumstances at home have changed?

The latest information, including how to apply can be found here. <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/free-school-meals> Even if your circumstances are only short term, schools receive some additional funding for 6 years even if you no longer receive free school meals, so please apply if you are eligible.

I am a key worker and now need child care – what do I need to do?

Please phone the school and explain the care that you need including the days that you are going to need. You will need to provide key worker ID on the first occasion when children attend.

Y1 – my child doesn't have their Times Tables Rock Stars sign in?

Please phone the school office and this can be given to you over the phone. This is the same username and password that can also be used for Numbots.

My child doesn't have their Google Classroom log in – what is it?

Please phone the school office and this can be given to you over the phone.

Finally...

I would just like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to our whole school team. I am immensely proud of the children, families and staff at our school, who have all come together to make this work for our community. Every single individual is doing a great job. Children are accepting their families as educators and their homes as school/home/clubs/playground with a smile and just the occasional stop. Families are now teachers, counsellors, club leaders, IT technicians, entertainers and chefs limited in their own homes and by what they can find, as well as doing their most important job of being a parent (potentially while also balancing their careers). School staff are going crazy at home; we chose to work in schools because of the difference we make to children's lives and because we cannot sit still and stare at a computer every day. Despite this, the staff are still working their contracted hours to improve the education for children revitalising planning, creating home learning and accessing training to improve practice. You may also want to tell your children that the teachers are currently writing their school reports, so uploading excellent work to Google Classroom will remind the teachers of their talents!

THANK YOU!

Stay home and stay safe! We will be in contact when we are told what the new expectations are from the government!

Yours faithfully,



Lisa Craig
Head of School