



WAYCROFT

MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Living and Learning Together



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Tuesday 21st April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am aware I only wrote to you all on Friday but there are a couple of updates that may be of interest to you.

Website

Apologies to those of you who tried unsuccessfully to access the website yesterday to get the topic work for your child. The site was down for a while in the morning but it all appears to be working as usual now. The link to find the topic work for home is:

https://www.waycroftacademy.com/web/school_closure_work/457489

This will take you to the Accelerated Reader link page. Simply scroll down to the year group menu on the left if you are using a computer or use the menu tab if on a phone or tablet.

Reading books

We have had a few requests for children to be able to change their reading books. If you would like to walk/cycle/scoot past the school as part of your daily exercise on Wednesday or Thursday of this week between 9:15am and 10:15am or 1:15pm and 3pm, a member of staff will be in the front car park with a selection of books for children to choose from. Please can we ask that you return any books you have so we can cross them off our lists and then we will need to record the new books that you are borrowing. If you do come to school for this purpose please follow social distancing guidelines. If your child is in school on those days, they can also change their books in school.

There are also over 7000 books (many with Accelerated Reader related quizzes) available to read online at:

<https://readon.myon.co.uk/library/browse.html>

Also, Oxford Owl are offering access to a range of ebooks if you register at:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

Empty exercise books

If you need another empty exercise book, you can collect one of these at the same time as changing the reading books.

NumBots

<https://play.numbots.com/>

During this period of lockdown the KS1 and KS2 children have free access to a new online learning platform called NumBots from the makers of Times Table Rock Stars. This game is aimed at boosting addition and subtraction skills for **all** ages of children.

With the success of Times Tables Rock Stars in encouraging children to master times table and division fact instant recall, we would like their skills with mental addition and subtraction to be just as good-NumBots will help!

All children start at the same place in Story mode and when they get to a certain stage they will unlock Challenge mode. The idea is that they play little and often; this will significantly improve their understanding of number bonds and addition and subtraction facts.

The login is exactly the same as the one for Times Tables Rock Stars.

Maths

We have also heard that the children would like access to some more maths related activities. From next week, Mrs Sweet is going to choose a maths topic and set work linked to the theme for years 1 to 6 in addition to the work set by the teachers. It will begin with some practical activities for KS1 and then will lead into the textbook work that the children use in school in their lessons for years 3 to 6. The work will cover topics such as: time, money and measure allowing the children to develop their problem solving skills alongside the number work being set by the teachers. This work will also be uploaded to the website at the end of each week for the following week. Please feel free to use any of the activities and questions that are appropriate to your child.

Online lessons

There are two new websites that have daily online lessons specific to year groups. Every child learns differently so these may be better options for your family's circumstances. These are simply options, so just be led by your children with what is best for them and they may provide a focus if all of the adults are working from home full time struggling to balance the children and work!

One is the new Oak National Academy that has been created by teachers for teachers and pupils. The pace is a little slower than the children are used to but the explanations are clear and there are examples for the children to do. The video clips feature qualified teachers. There is a maths, English and topic lesson each day. <https://www.thenational.academy/>

Secondly, BBC Bitesize is also offering three lessons a day that are year group specific. This is more cartoon based but still informative. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

Again, for further challenge the children may need to look at older year groups.

Welfare calls

We have appreciated the contact we have had with many of you over the past few weeks, but there are some families that we haven't had contact with – we are hoping it is because you are all well, happy and busy. If you haven't been in contact with a member of staff recently, please expect a brief welfare call towards the end of the week checking in with you or we may get to see you on Wednesday or Thursday if you come to change reading books. Remember that you can contact us at school on the phone from 8am to 4pm each day or via email using info@waycroftacademy.com.

Return to school

Just to confirm that there are still no plans as of yet to reopen schools to all pupils. The government will make the decision when it feels it is safe for children to return to school. We don't have any more information than you do at this time but we will let you know as soon as we know any plans. We do still remain open to children of key workers and can I just take this opportunity to say a huge well done to those children who are still coming to school. They arrive every day with a smile and work collaboratively with whoever else is in that day on whatever challenges are set by their teachers. Many adults are finding this new normal challenging, yet the resilience and ability to adapt by this group of children is simply excellent! Well done and thank you!

Yours faithfully,



Lisa Craig
Head of School



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