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THE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

Church of England



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Spring Term Newsletter No.3

Friday 22nd January 2021

Messages from Mrs Eveleigh...

Dear Parents,

It has been a strange week across the partnership with several families and children finding it tricky. Even in school, there have been a few more challenging days. We really appreciate how this lockdown seems and feels different than the last one, hence our intrepid endeavors with the live sessions with children to help keep them in touch with us and their peers. We all miss each other!

I was delighted that so many of our children managed to get online with their teachers, despite some hiccups including a malfunctioning computer camera, we made it! Thank you to the grown-ups for your perseverance and thanks to the teachers for embracing the challenge. The timetable that you received this week we aim to run over the next 3 weeks. There will be some direct grammar teaching being trialed by some teachers, not just stories and catch -up, so do log in. It will be carefully reviewed and evaluated at half term; what the Department for Education (DfE) has to say about school closures or perhaps even opening, will help determine our offer after ½ term. All sessions are being recorded only as part of our training and safeguarding. These are not, at this point, being distributed.

I appreciate that some families are having connection issues and a 'frozen' image has been reported to us. This difficulty often concerns broadband bandwidth and upload and download speeds. If you wish to test your broadband speed, try this link: <https://www.speedtest.net/>. Please do be aware though that this will test the speed from your device to the internet, which will also include your WiFi connection, which may be a limiting factor.

Your connectivity is, sadly, out of our control; however, some good news is that we believe some mobile phone companies are offering free access to specific learning websites. Please see the General Technology Update section. In school, it seems to be working fairly well and I am really sorry we are not able to sort out these connection issues for you.

The DfE laptops scheme for vulnerable children has allocated some laptops to both schools: 2 for Webber's and 5 for Burlescombe; however, not enough for all those who need one. We are doing our best to ask for more, but we have had no luck yet. The only response has been that the department is very busy! We have started to try to refurbish a few of our old ones, but they are very, very slow!

Thank you for returning your child's weekly home learning log to us – they are key to help us to keep track of your child's learning engagement. Please remember the feedback comments help us to improve our offer and keep in touch.

As always, if you are unsure about the expectations for home learning, or you are not sure what your child is meant to be doing, please do contact us and we will do our best to help you.

Sincere apologies to those in school that we were unable to offer a hot meal today. We hope you enjoyed your picnic. I am unable to say at this point if the necessary repairs can be made to enable us to provide a hot meal next week or our full menu. Please bear with us as we try to get the necessary repairs completed.

For those children who are in receipt of Free School Meals, we are now using the voucher system going forward. Please keep an eye on for an email early next week as they will be sent electronically. If your personal circumstances have changed and you think you may now qualify, please, please do get in touch with us.

TVP Building news

Unfortunately, there will be some scaffolding erected over the next few weeks at Burlescombe. The small area near the main chimney, will be secured by Heras fencing as previously. Sadly, we have a leak that is again seeping its way down the upstairs office wall.

With the torrential rain we have been having, unfortunately we now have several leaks in the Webber's flat roof 😞. Swift action by the Diocese is enabling surveys and project proposals to be drafted and they are trying to get a grant to help secure the repairs. The leak is not impacting the classrooms, so it's learning as usual for everyone!

COVID-19 Update

As you may have heard on the news, COVID-19 twice weekly home testing for primary school staff is being planned by Public Health England and the DfE. We are busy preparing for when the tests arrive so that we can add another layer of reducing risk in school for children, families and staff. In order to continue to help protect our staff, we ask that you remember to follow closely the guidelines on social mixing, distancing and the HANDS, FACE, SPACE message. Thank you.

Please remember you can always arrange to speak to me either by telephone or TEAMS if you have any

Your child's **REMOTE HOME LEARNING TIMETABLES** for next week, will be uploaded over the weekend to our websites. The work is the same for both schools.

General Technology Update

I am unable to confirm the information below, but I would suggest parents check out the claims: According to [BBC News reports on Technology](#):

"So far EE, BT Mobile, PlusNet Mobile, Virgin Mobile, O2, Three and Vodafone have said the online materials provided by the **Oak National Academy** educational website will be free to access until schools reopen, although only BT has confirmed a start date - the end of January."
 "BT, PlusNet and EE are also offering free access to **BBC Bitesize resources**."

LETTERS/EMAILS SENT OUT THIS WEEK

Home learning links until half term
 School meals- picnic email

Community News There is no community news this week.

worries or concerns, or indeed suggestions that will support the children's learning.

I do hope you have enjoyed [Robin's Collective](#) Worship so far this term- a huge thank you Robin. I hope that you have also decided to join us on Fridays with the whole TVP Collective Worship- not quite the techno-whizz of super Robin, but enjoyable just the same 😊.

We are planning a special series of mental health and well-being sessions for ALL children and families on Wednesdays until half term and possibly longer. This will be a 30-40 minute TEAMS session led by our much loved, Helen Wilson, a specialist in mindfulness who has worked across the TVP for over 4 years. We will be sending you special link during the next few days. Please take this super opportunity and don't worry about the timetabled delivery for this time- we would rather you prioritized you and your child's wellbeing during this challenging time.

Please keep safe and keep smiling – you are doing well!
 Kindest regards,



Deborah Eveleigh
 Executive Head Teacher

TEAM POINTS and STARS of the WEEK

We are not, at this point, collecting team points during lockdown. However, we have had some real stars this week 😊. Well done children and thank you for your hard work, positivity, and effort.

STARS OF THE WEEK

(Certificates to be emailed home next week)

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|--|-------------------------------|
| Webber's | Burlescombe |
| Jack G William R Lily C Ben T | Aleesa R Arthur M Eve M |

Diary Dates

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|------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Monday 25 th January | Both Schools | Week 4 Home Learning – details on the website |
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CHILDREN'S CORNER



From Connor S:
 What wobbles in the sky?
 ...a jellycopter!

From Brooke:
 There was a leaf attached to the apple I was eating- I couldn't beleaf it!



Why did the pirate cross the road?
 To get to the second -hand shop!