



Loving, Learning, Living

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Again I would like to thank you for all your support during another week of this seemingly endless lock down. I currently have the feeling that I am in a strange time warp where the weeks seem really long and yet on the other hand they are passing by an alarming rate! But as ever when things get a bit too much, I am always cheered up by the enthusiasm of the children both at school and those working from home. All of the work this week has been so good!!

Whether at home or at school, the Explorers have continued to practise their reading, phonics and number work. Thank you for all the great photos you have sent in of all the other amazing things you have all been doing.

This week the Adventurers have continued their history work by looking at significant figures from the 17th century and have used their knowledge to write non chronological reports. They have also wrestled successfully with multiplication and division problems, spoken about their families in french, used 'Scratch' to code some dance moves and still found enough time to perfect their salt dough recipes to open their own bakeries!!

Not to be out done, the Voyagers and the Pioneers have been busy too. The Voyagers have learned all about the geography of rivers; they can name all the features and have researched local rivers. They have also been working on division in maths; using different methods to divide numbers with and without remainders. Their descriptive paragraphs inspired by the illustrations in their class book demonstrate their mastery of the use of adverbs and adjectives to add detail to their work. I have been inspired by their 'Stickhenge' pictures from their outdoor learning.

Pioneers have cracked how to convert between improper fractions and mixed numbers and built up some brilliant systematic approaches to problem solving. They have written newspaper reports based on their class novel, studied OS maps, tried observational drawing of natural objects and launched the Young Leaders' Award with an assembly! As if this wasn't enough they have also been very creative in music using graphic scores and creating sounds.

For those children working entirely from home, we are very aware that achieving all of this continues to be a challenge and for some families an additional stress at an already difficult time. I cannot emphasise enough that the work set is a guide and if there are days when it all gets too much please encourage your child to take time out and start again the next day. Myself and staff are always on hand to help if needed. In order to further support families at home this week, we have established virtual meetings - either individually or in small groups - to focus on the children's wellbeing and to give an extra helping hand with some work as needed. If this something you feel would help your child with a particular issue please contact your child's teacher directly to discuss. Also below is a link to some resources you may find helpful.

[Tips for families under pressure](#)

As I mentioned last week, each week staff will be hosting live sessions for children at home. Please check the email communication from your child's class teacher for details of these next week. These are a great opportunity for children at home who do not see their teachers in school at the moment to connect with staff and for staff to check in on how everything is going. To safeguard both children and staff we ask that all children have an adult present in the room for the duration of the call. Thank you for your support with this.

At the end of last term, we did say that we would be reviewing all IPs and sharing new targets with parents and pupils this week. We are sorry for the delay in this and we are currently reconsidering our SEND support in light of the current circumstances. Your child's class teacher will be in touch very soon to discuss how we will continue to support your child whether they are at home or in school over the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued support of the current guidelines by keeping your children at home if you can. Both our bubbles continue to be at or near to capacity each day but requests for places seem to have settled into a more predictable pattern. So from next week, we will only be sending out the google form to request places to those parents who have already expressed a need for a place for their child in

the past 3 weeks. However, should your circumstances change and your child is eligible for a place, but is currently not attending school, please contact us and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Finally, we have received rapid flow testing kits for all staff in school this week and we will begin to self test twice weekly from next week. We hope this will give both staff and parents some extra reassurance that we will have the earliest possible indication of a positive case amongst us and therefore will be able to take swift action to minimise the risk of wider infection in our community. At this time we are not aware of any plans to roll out testing for primary age pupils.

Take care everyone and have a good weekend - at least there is a chance the rain will stop!

Very best wishes

Suzanne Connolly