

Tune in on Tuesday

Wheelwright Lane Primary School Newsletter

Issue 32: 05.05.2020

www.wheelwrightlane.warwickshire.sch.uk

School Updates

Staff continue to keep the school open for children of a handful of key worker families and vulnerable children. The school office is open and please continue to ring in if you need to speak to a member of staff. Please leave a message if it goes to answerphone and someone will get back to you.

We all hope that our families are keeping well and staying safe.

Message is still clear from the Government to STAY HOME AND STAY SAFE - we will let you know as soon as we have further updates for you.

Moving Forward

These are very difficult times we are all living through and we are all having to make great sacrifices and adjustments to every aspect of our lives. I think we have done extremely well so far and hope that we continue to 'hold our nerve' and continue to follow scientific advice on how we tackle Coronavirus in the long term - in schools and in the community. We want to keep everyone safe.

Schools are places where many people, adults and children, gather in small areas - viruses and other infections spread very easily in the conditions that exist in school. This is the reason why it is extremely difficult to reopen schools. If schools reopened as normal they

would be closed within no time while this virus is still in the general public. It is clear that the right conditions and restrictions need to be put in place before any school reopens. No-one wants to go backwards after all that has been achieved through our hard work.

It is clear that schools will not reopen in the format we are used to over the coming months - that is, unless a vaccine becomes available. Our shift to distance/on-line learning will go on for some time to come and is not just for a few weeks. It is important that children and families engage with the current way of learning as it becomes normality for us all to be working in this way.

In the meantime we are all looking to those countries that are tentatively moving out of complete lock down to understand how we can continue to keep the virus at bay while ensuring children's learning continues. It is important to remember that schools in Europe are not run the same as England and may already have fewer children in each class (France has an average of 20 children per class - we have 30+) so each country will need to consider its own school culture to ensure the health and safety of the whole school community is not compromised. It is clear that this process will not be rushed or happen quickly. We will await the scientific evidence which will inform the Government's advice for schools regarding their next steps.

The Department for Education is currently in talks with the education community as to how best we continue with educating children - not just the phased reopening of schools but supporting distance/on-line learning and supporting families and children at home. We will continue to support children and families through on-line learning and by using alternatives that are in place for some families presently.

As soon as we receive further guidance we let you know.

Stay Home - protect the NHS - Save Lives

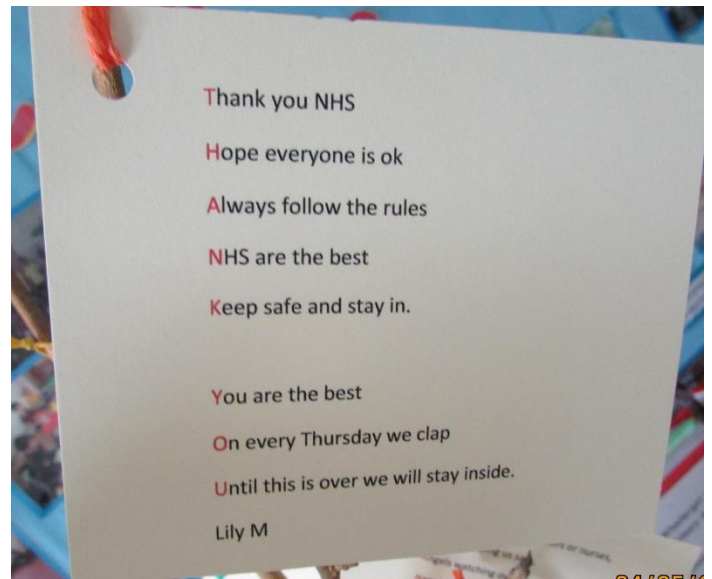
Year 3 R.E. work



Thank you to all the children and families for their Thank You acrostic poems. Many of you joined in to write poems thanking our frontline staff for all their hard work and kindness.

Mrs Pape has displayed all the work in the entrance hall.

She would also like the children to decorate a stone to add to the tree. (stones are available to collect outside the reception area).



Thank you to Lily for her kind words and heartfelt thanks.

Well done Year 3 and their families.

Thank you also to Lily H for her decorated stones and lovely homemade cakes for the staff - delicious.

School photographs

Many of you have not had your school photographs as we all went into lockdown so quickly in March. We have heard from the photographer who reported that her lab also went into lockdown and has been closed ever since. Once the lock down is eased then they will complete all their pending work and post the photographs out to families.

Useful Information

Useful website for mental well-being:

Every Mind Matters

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

School Health and Well-being Service - Compass

A health and wellbeing update from your school nurse team:

During the Coronavirus outbreak, the Warwickshire School Health and Well-being Service are still available to provide support - even if this may be given in a different way to usual! As such, the team will now be sending a weekly update to schools, where they will share resources, helpful tips, and relevant news and details of the support available for pupils and parents/carers.

Please see **attached** leaflet dated 27th April.

Warwickshire County Council Coronavirus support line

Warwickshire County Council have set up a coronavirus helpline for parents/carers. Please take a look.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Please contact if you are unsure about anything or would like answers to any questions you may have.

Free School Meals

If you are entitled to FSM then please sign up using the links on the school website. Once you have been accepted we will be notified and be able to forward supermarket vouchers (now takes the place of FSM).

There is also support available from the Warwickshire Welfare Service with regards to energy bills and other financial assistance. Please look at the website:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfare/scheme>

If you would like to be put forward for a foodbank parcel please telephone the school and we can arrange this for you.

Family Information Service

Please check out the latest information from the FIS.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies>

No Excuse for Abuse

Information received from **West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner**, as follows:

There is #NoExcuseForAbuse

If you are a victim of #DomesticAbuse, there is help available.

Find out more and seek support.

NoExcuseForAbuse.info

Twitter Tags: @CRASAC @coventry_haven @FWTCov @Kairos_WWT @CovPartnership

Facebook: @FWTCov @CoventryHaven @relatecoventrywarwickshire @CRASAC @Kairos.Coventry

Please also check the National Centre for Domestic Violence website below:

<https://www.ncdvmagazine.co.uk/>

This week's feature: keep learning!

Learning is really important for our wellbeing, no matter what stage of our life we are at. Developing skills and having new experiences has been shown to boost our self-esteem, help us connect with others, and give us a sense of hope and purpose. However, many of us are stuck at home at the moment, and some may be finding home schooling a challenge. But learning isn't just about traditional education - it can be about trying new things or thinking outside the box to do things differently. Here are some activities for children, young people and families that can help you keep learning while having fun and connecting with others too.



For children

- ☆ These free downloads from Orchard Toys include crafts, activity sheets, recipes, and maths and literacy. This variety of activities is perfect for getting our brains working in lots of different ways: cutt.ly/free-downloads
- ☆ Lots of people get deliveries in cardboard boxes, but have you ever thought about what you could make with them after? Get creative with stickers, paints, pens, felt or whatever you have in the house. It could be a fairy house, a fire engine or one of these ideas - cutt.ly/create-box. Remember to use child-safe materials and have an adult help with any cutting out.

For young people

- ☆ You've probably spent lots of time looking at websites or using apps, but have you ever thought about learning how to build them? Now is a great time to learn a new skill such as coding. You can get free tutorials from Codeacademy - cutt.ly/codeacademy - as well as advice on where to begin based on your current skills and interests.
- ☆ Try your hand at creative writing. You could write a story, poem or song. If you're struggling with motivation, a themed writing competition can help you get started - take a look at some options here: cutt.ly/writing-competitions

For everyone

- ☆ These at-home science experiments can be done with everyday items: cutt.ly/kids-science
- ☆ Learn to draw with these fun tutorials from children's illustrator Rob Biddulph: cutt.ly/draw-with-rob



Your school nurse team is here to help!

We know these times can be unsettling for children, young people and families. Our school nurse team is here to provide support with any concerns or questions about health and wellbeing. Please get in touch using the details below for free, confidential advice.



Parents/carers

- 📞 Service mainline: 03300 245 204
- 📱 Text Parentline: 07520 619 376

Children/young people aged 11-19 years

- 📱 Text ChatHealth: 07507 331 525



www.compass-uk.org/services/warwickshire-school-health-wellbeing-service