

Dear parents/carers and children,

28th January 2021

No 19 Newsletter

What a blustery day we are all having today! I am really looking forward to going on a long walk over the weekend with my family and Willow the dog. I wonder how many birds I will get to see? Well done too everyone who has joined us in the RSPB Birdwatch this week; I hope your observations helped to identify the birds on the whole-school assembly today.

A massive thank you to all our school community, both at home and at school for taking part in the parent/carer questionnaire. We have had 58 responses and these will certainly help us to reassess our remote offer and make changes where appropriate, thank you! One of the main themes coming out from your comments is about wellbeing and children at home missing friends and wanting to chat. I am very aware that the government extended our time in lockdown until at least 8th March so please, please contact us if we can help in anyway through this tricky time.

Disco

Next week, we have lots planned for Children's Wellbeing Week but in addition I wanted to mention we have planned a whole-school, end of half term disco on Friday 12th February at 3-3.30 pm. We can then dress up and boogie from our front rooms! Please send any song requests by next Friday to tatworth@educ.somerset.gov.uk. Also, we have arranged for some hatching ducklings to be in school from 15th March – if anyone knows how we can set up a 24hour webcam please let me know. Our technical knowledge at school is improving, but I am not sure we are yet at the expert level to get this sorted 😊.



Parents' Evening

We have planned again for parents' evening to be virtual via Schoolcloud for Thursday, 25th February and Tuesday, 2nd March 4- 6pm. Further information will follow with booking details.

Writing Books

If anyone needs writing books for school work, please call into school on your daily exercise, press the buzzer and we will bring them out.

Talk on Tuesdays

We believe the ability to listen and talk well, is essential for wellbeing, effective learning and future life-chances. Talk on Tuesdays is an initiative, in partnership with Voice 21, which will support the continued development of our children's oracy skills throughout this period of home learning and beyond. As part of this, we will be providing weekly activities, on a Tuesday, to help stimulate good talk at home.

Love learning, work together, achieve and shine.

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Parent/Carer Survey Feedback:

Thank you to all those who have completed the survey this week. We would still very much like to hear everyone's thoughts, there is still time to complete it. In the meantime, we have taken on board some of your suggestions and there are answers to some of your questions below:

Supply the work the night before – We appreciate that all families work to different routines and that some are home learning with their children and working from home too. On speaking to the teachers, and taking on board their personal commitments outside of school, it was agreed that all classes would have at least one lesson on the class Teams page by 8.50 am each morning. In most cases, all the work for the day is available earlier but please feel free to save a session back from the day before or work a day behind if it helps your own situation at home. We very much appreciate everything everyone is doing.

The same time table of live lessons every week would be helpful – On Tuesday during our weekly staff meeting, it was agreed that all class timetables will go up each Monday for the week on the 'General' page. These timetables will show the sessions for each day and every live lesson will be written in green. Fingers crossed, this helps to make things clearer.

Make submitting work easier/When the submitted time has passed how do we submit work? – We really value the work the children are completing at home. However, to make it clearer, the teachers have agreed that they should all have the same requests and ask for all submitted work to be in an assignment. If the assignment has closed, work can still be sent in the Homelearning inbox. Teachers will comment on all assignment work, although may not be able to comment on other photographed or uploaded work.

We have not had any 1-2-1 contact with the class teachers – this was a surprise to read, as we have very much tried our best to contact all children and families. In our Remote Learning Policy we explain that all assignment work will be commented on and I very much believe this has happened. Every day, teachers and staff in school, are setting aside time to phone or email families to check or answer any technical questions or queries they may have. Every day, we check the Homelearning email account and either, adults associated to a class, or the class teacher will respond. The office staff and myself are also available to talk to too. We are also checking in with families and offering ways to help in other ways. Of course, our promise to contact all children could be in a written comment on a piece of work rather than a phone call. Parents' evening appointments will also offer parents/carers and children an opportunity to catch up too. Teachers are working extremely hard to supply the remote learning offer and they are committed to each and every child in their class.

Give the teachers more time to deal with the remote queries as they are having to work so late to support remote learners – We are extremely lucky at Tatworth to have such a dedicated staff. All staff are working together to supply the remote offer, facilitating the teaching and learning in school, planning and preparing, filming sessions, commenting on uploaded work and answering queries/contacting families. We have altered the timetables in school to allow teachers and those responsible for uploading work, to spend some time away from school each day. I am very mindful of the need to maintain a work/life balance for all our staff and our families at home. Thank you for this comment and your acknowledgement that teaching doesn't stop at the end of the school day. I am sure it doesn't stop for you at home either, so let's all be kind to ourselves and make sure we are all having a break and some time off.



I think just the mental health aspect is all that is missing. An opportunity to interact fully with the school social bubble so that the children can all feel connected to each other – We quite agree! Obviously, our main focus initially was to set up, prepare and deliver the remote offer. Some teachers this week have branched out and trialled ways of engaging all children in a more light-hearted way. So, from next week, each class will have a session at the beginning or end of a live reading session for parents, carers and children to chat more freely and ask questions; this may be about the work or to see how everyone is doing. Each class will also be arranging a Show and Tell session too, so watch this space! With Children’s Mental Health Week 1st – 7th February, please see the attached flyer for the events going on in and out of school.

Thank you also for some really lovely and positive comments too: they gave the staff a real boost 😊:

We couldn’t have asked for more!

We are very pleased with the current set up and appreciate everyone’s hard work.

The school have been brilliant with everything, very supportive.

Please continue to submit your comments and questions and I will answer more next week. A child questionnaire will also be coming out too so all our community voices can be heard. Thank you.

Celebrations:

Learning behaviour stickers will be added to assignments only and these will be awarded by teachers and school staff. We are encouraging all the children in Years 1 to 6 to continue to work towards their learning behaviour badges and we will record these in school. Notification of who has achieved their badge or coloured section, will be celebrated in our virtual assemblies each week. Detailed information for each class is on the school website here:

<https://www.tatworth.somerset.sch.uk/curriculum/behaviour-for-learning/>

Behaviour for Learning Celebrations:

Acorn Class: Fergus for giving happiness and kindness to others. **Clara** for challenging herself and exceptional presentation.

Oak Class: Zephyr for amazing science work, aiming high, well done. **Georgie** for keeping going and working hard. **Orla** for keeping going and working hard.

Beech Class: Darcie for joining Beech Class in lockdown and making such a great start! **Isabelle** for being so motivated and engaged in all her learning. **Adley** for being so motivated and engaged in all of his learning. **Rita** for being fully engaged throughout lockdown with PE lessons and being very active.

Willow Class: Maisy So. For fantastic engagement with home learning and super work, always friendly and helpful on live lessons. **Skye** for coming to school everyday ready to learn with a positive attitude. **Grace** for being fully engaged throughout lockdown with PE lessons and being very active.

Hawthorn Class: Iestyn for taking a risk in Maths and completing his work with a positive attitude. **Tyler H** for taking a risk in Music and keeping the beat and rhythm beautifully!

Hazel Class: Gracie for aiming high in her learning and really applying herself in the set tasks. **Julia** for taking responsibility for her learning and engaging so well with Spelling Frame.

Yew Class: Chris for trying his best in all his assignments. **Ollie C** for clear and precise answers in this reading comprehension.



Platinum Bag:

Acorn Class: Ava, Emma & Thea.

Oak Class: Cameron, Darcey, Marley, Isla & Ezra.

Beech Class: for Wonderful animal mask making.

Willow Class: Chloe & Grace.

Hazel Class: Matilda, Amelia, Brooke & Skye

Yew Class: Ollie B, Rebekah & Ellie.

Beech Class with their wonderful animal masks!



Badges:

Class	Badge	Green Person
Oak		Joel, Marley, Darcey, Cameron, Alfred, Ezra, Arthur, Elliott, Florence, Harper, Ziggy, Archie, Leo, Orla & Isla.
Beech	Benjamin, Edward & Jack	Isabelle, Adley, Cooper, Jayden, Megan & Zuza.
Willow	Chloe	Jimmy, Ruby H, Finley & Spencer
Hawthorn	Kaici, Oscar B	Amelia, Ava, Charlie B, Erin, Jenson, Lillie, Monty, Olivia & Rosie.
Yew	Isabelle, Harry F, Phin, Jacob, Chris, Neave, Kyron, Bruce, Jasper, Ollie, Jack & Ned.	Sienna, Kieran & Ellie.



Going forward, our numbers in school are continuing to rise and we ask again, in the spirit of the guidance, that all parents who have requested places, or are considering requesting places, under the umbrella of critical worker status, do so only on those days when their child cannot be at home.

Kind regards



Tracey Hart
Headteacher

All children who attend school on a Friday should bring wellies. Also, please bring trainers to school on the day your child is due to do PE. In school we are following the same timetable as the children at home. All PE lessons for children at school will be outside, weather permitting. Please wear appropriate uniform to allow this to take place. Children will not be changing clothes for these activities.

School Meals – for those children in school we are still offering hot dinner, please order as usual via parentpay.

