

Newsletter 19 - Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Families,

Launching 'Feel Good Friday'! We have noticed that there has been a bit of a drop off with some of the Remote Learning for some lessons this week. We recognise that keeping the momentum up is really hard for both parents and pupils. The challenges of another national lockdown when it's cold and wintery outside, trying to keep children entertained as well as keeping on top of the learning is not an easy task and lots of our parents continue to work from home. Therefore, in our staff meeting this week, the staff tried to think of a way of changing things up a little and give us all something to look forward to.

As you know, we are directed by the government to provide three hours of learning per day for the children, but it doesn't have to be formal lessons. So, we are proposing that Fridays will be theme-based days where the learning is more hands on and fun. It will start at 9:30 with a launch assembly which will include our Harrier Award presentation and finish with an optional drop-in celebration of the activities that have been carried out.

Our first 'Feel Good Friday' starts next week and it will be a Science based day. Attached to this email are two Science activities and links if you would like more information. The activities use everyday items which is why they are aptly named 'Kitchen Cupboard Science'. The class teachers will also be sending through ideas in the next day or two, so you have plenty of time to locate anything you might need. The bank of activities sent are for you to dip into and do as many or as few as you would like to do with the guide that we should be doing around three hours per day. If you have more than one child at the school, choose activities from any of the teachers and do what you would like to do - you do not have to do one from each teacher.

We hope you are as excited about this as we are and that it gives us all a chance to have a bit of fun and a different Remote Learning routine that keeps all our children motivated and interested while learning lots of new things but in a less formal and screen-based way.

Children's Mental Health Week 2021 1st-7th February: Next week is Children's Mental Health Week and never has this been more important. We will be doing things in school with the children throughout the week and tying something in with our 'Feel-Good Friday'. Here's the link for parents that you may want to have a look, there are some really great suggestions and activities on there. <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

Reading books: You should have received an email yesterday, asking for our pupils in Reception through to and including Year Two, to bring all their reading books back (both Phonics lesson books - if they have them and the usual home reading books). As you can imagine, it has been a real challenge to distribute so many books and this has cleared out our resource that is adequate in usual times but not in these times. Therefore, if you can return the books by Monday at the latest, we can get them isolated before redistributing them. Thank you so much for your cooperation with this. In Year One, the Phonics lesson structure may be slightly different at the beginning of next week while we get the new lesson reading books out to you. Thank you.

Seesaw for Year One: Miss Cox has printed off the log in details for each child in Year One to have a Seesaw account. The printed sheets are situated in the office and you are able to collect these when returning your child's books. If you are unable to come into school, Miss Cox will

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email you the details. Please let her know. Seesaw will be used in conjunction with Teams and we think our Year One parents will love it as much as our Year Two parents do!

Full re-opening of school: You will have heard from the Prime Minister this week that the earliest schools will reopen is the **8th March**. This means we have at least four more school weeks of Remote Learning to go. We are going to continue to provide learning opportunities to ensure the detriment to the children is as minimal as possible. This of course is no mean feat when Remote Learning is not the same as the children being in school for six hours a day. However, myself and the staff are confident with your continued support and engagement, this can be achieved. Please keep doing all you have been doing thus far - it really has been incredible!

Students: We are lucky enough again to have two Derby University teaching students working with us. In Reception class we have Miss McNervin and in Year Two class we have Miss Smallwood. Obviously, their teaching placements are very different to what they would normally be, however, they will have opportunities to conduct some of the Remote Learning under the watchful eye of the class teachers. They are very much looking forward to meeting the rest of the class in person in March all being well!

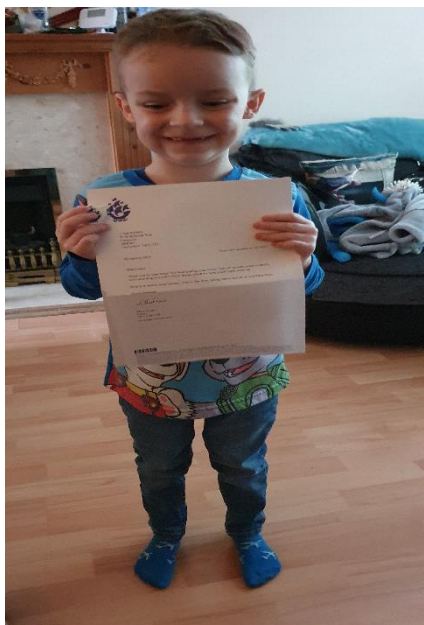
Maternity to cover teacher: As you know, Miss Jack will be going on Maternity leave in the Summer Term and we are advertising for a temporary teacher. Please see the link below and share on social media. We have had quite a bit of interest so far but it's always good to have more! <https://www.wmjobs.co.uk/job/87265/fixed-term-maternity-cover-reception-class-teacher-full-time/?LinkSource=PremiumListing>

Blue Peter Badge: Lukas in Year Two has only gone and got himself another Blue Peter Badge! This time for sending in a poem he wrote about Harvest as part of his Home Learning in the Autumn Term. Have a look at the link below to see how work you are already doing can earn you a Blue Peter badge which gets you free entry into so many attractions when they reopen later in the year!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges>

Here's Lukas with his!

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Harrier Award: The Harrier Value for this half term is Responsibility. We have seen some absolutely fabulous examples of this through Tapestry, Seesaw and Teams. Read on to find out who was given the Harrier Award this morning in our virtual assembly. There were also lots of shout outs for those that shared what they have been doing!

Congratulations to the following children:

| Class | Name | Reason |
|-----------|---------|---|
| Nursery | Olivia | For settling in so well into Little Harriers - she has made lots of new friends and is doing great! |
| Reception | Ibrahim | For going above and beyond with his reading, aiming high and making great progress because of this! Well done! |
| Year 1 | Holly | For always giving 100% effort in her writing and taking responsibility to read to her class mates with such expression. They love listening to her! |
| Year 2 | Hallei | For her amazing descriptive story about Frost the Owl! Well done Halle! |

I look forward to seeing you on Monday in our virtual assembly and on the live lessons in the coming week.

Wishing you a lovely weekend. Please stay safe.

With best wishes

Mrs Hopkins & The Henhurst Ridge Primary Academy Family