



MEADOWS FIRST SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

A Message from Mrs Hewitt

It seems like a long time since I have seen you all, but each and every one of you are in our thoughts at this time. We have been disappointed how long pupils have been away from school, but the recent announcements suggest that we may soon be able to return to some normality. If your child has not been in school and you are caring for them at home, attempting to home school, whilst coping with the concerns around this pandemic over last few months, I have nothing but praise for you! We are all trying to navigate these times in the best way we can for our families. Can I remind you that we are available by email or phone at ANY time! Please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do our best to help.

We have tried to plan activities that support the children during this time but we are aware that we do not know what access children have to internet, printers, resources and adult support with home learning. We do not want to set work that requires too much teaching input as we do not want to overburden families at what is already a difficult time. So please remember the main priority is the health and well-being of all of your family. Upon the children's return to school, teachers will be adapting all planning to 'catch-up' lost key learning to minimise the impact of school closure/absence. The National Curriculum has been suspended during this pandemic, so we urge you to remember that these tasks are simply set to help keep children's minds active and provide some structure to the day and can be used as you feel appropriate. Do what you can and don't worry about what you can't!

Children's mental and emotional wellbeing is at the heart of our everyday school life. We spend lots of time in school reading stories, talking, playing games and doing activities to encourage children to talk about how they are feeling, address any issues and take the time to slow down and reflect in what is usually a very busy school day! Two weeks ago we set 'health and well-being' as our home learning topic but it is important all year round especially now. The priority at this time is to look after your own and your child's mental health; we can catch up with their learning when we are all back in school (which I hope is very soon).

Below are some activities that you could do at home, similar to some of the things we do in school, that may support children's emotional wellbeing. There are also some resources that you may find useful in supporting children's understanding and anxieties during this Coronavirus pandemic.

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Wellbeing-diary.pdf>

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/cco-childrens-guide-to-coronavirus.pdf>

This is a lovely story to share with young children to explain coronavirus: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DA_SsZFYw0w

I often look for poems that have supported people during this crisis, but this week I was sent one from one of our families, which I thought was lovely to share; a child's perspective of lockdown.

Our 5 lockdown things

Playing in the garden, having lots of fun
On our lockdown list, that's thing number one!

Doing our school tasks, that we're still working through
On our lockdown list, that's number two!

Walking to the park and climbing up a tree
On our lockdown list that's thing number three!

Doing Joe Wicks and working hard to the core
On our lockdown list, that's number four!

Zoom meetings and doing the things that make us thrive
On our lockdown list, that's thing number five.

By the Proudman children.

Catshill Baptist Church Foodbank will be re-opening!

If you struggling financially and a food parcel would give you the support you need at present, you can call the organisers of Catshill Foodbank from 1st July on either 07542 102649 or 07754567800 between 10am-4pm.

The food bank no longer deliver and hence they will be asking you to collect your food parcels. They will offer a timed slot for the collection on a Wednesday morning or Friday afternoon – this is to prevent you having to queue and so that they can observe social distancing rules. If you would like school to organise this for you, contact Mrs Hewitt through the school office.

Calling all children aged 4-11 years – sign up to the 'Silly Squad Summer Reading Challenge 2020!'

The annual Summer Reading Challenge for children aged 4-11 years is being delivered online this year. This year's challenge was launched nationally on Friday 5th June. The theme is Silly Squad with a focus on the enjoyment of reading for pleasure; children are encouraged to read anything that makes them happy and can register for the challenge here <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

They can read books available at home or those free to download and borrow from Worcestershire Libraries. Remember, library membership is free and Worcestershire residents of all ages can join instantly online with a digital membership – a wide range of junior fiction is available from the [digital library](#) including a dedicated 'Silly Squad' collection of books in ebook and eaudio format using the 'Borrowbox' app. Due to the impact of Covid-19, Worcestershire Libraries are unable to host the SRC in their library buildings or run any face to face events and activities. However, many library services, events and activities are now available online - visit the [Digital Library Hub](#) to explore or access the SRC events and activities via [Worcestershire Libraries Facebook page](#) or register with Oxford Owls for free ebooks.

Competition time: <https://www.virgin.com/news/500-words-black-lives-matter-competition-announced> - this links well with our theme on 'significant people' for next week. Children should draw on their own experiences and feelings to create a story that can be as imaginative as they like. The competition is open for 5-13 year olds – and entry is by 3rd July.