

Der Parents/Carers,

As we end our third week in lockdown we remain grateful for all your support and encouragement with the learning at home that is taking place. We completely understand that each and every one of you is in a different situation and managing in the best way you can. This is all you can do so please be kind to yourselves.

We do not know when we will be back together again so for now by connecting with us as much as you can through Teams is the best way of ensuring your child keeps in touch with their class and the staff they are familiar with. Staff are really enjoying seeing the children and engaging with them using this technology and are constantly moving forward with ideas to make the sessions as interactive as possible. We know of quizzes, games, drawing challenges, bingo and many other activities that are all being completed in these sessions. We know that you are not all able to join each live session but try your best and you can always watch it back afterwards on the Teams channel as they are recorded.

### **Online Safety**

With the increased use of technology it is important that we continue to educate our children on using it safely. Using Teams is a secure platform when used correctly and we encourage you to please ensure any use of Teams fits with our Teams agreement that was sent out to you all in October and an updated copy is also attached to this newsletter. By children going on Teams they are agreeing to keep to the agreement so that we can safeguard all your children and our staff. Staff are now giving simple reminders at the start of each meeting so we can keep each other safe online.

We do ask that **whenever possible the cameras are turned on for the live meetings**. One of the main purposes of our live meetings is to ensure that staff and children can connect and engage with each other. When cameras are off this makes it harder to see reactions and encourage responses and check participation. We understand the younger the children are, the more difficult engaging in a video call can be, and staff are very aware of trying to make their meetings age appropriate, purposeful and clear with our expectations. There is also a strong safeguarding link that by seeing who is on the other end of the call we can check it is the right name and log in details so we are admitting correct members of the class to each meeting, again to protect your children. We ask you to make sure that any images or text are not shared on any other platform that have been copied from Teams (as per the agreement) and by keeping cameras on we can monitor this aspect too for your children. We do know that some devices do not offer this option and so staff will try and speak to each member of the class as they join a member to confirm their identity if they are not able to see the child on screen. Only known username details will ever be admitted from the lobby to ensure that only trusted members of the team are in a meeting.

Thank you for your support with this and if you require any further information regarding online safety please contact your child's class teacher for some further materials.

### **Face coverings**

For any child attending school at present, please can we remind all adults that only one adult should be attending to drop off or pick up and we continue to ask for a face covering for adults to be used when on school grounds. As per government advice social distancing is extremely important so please can we ask to you remain as far apart as you can and make your time on site as short as possible by not arriving too early. We thank you for your support with this.



### **Staff lateral flow testing**

Many of you may have read in the news about lateral flow testing being rolled out in primary schools. Next week, we begin to start this process at both schools. This is only for staff and an optional process added as another prevention of spread measure to our risk assessment. There are no plans at present to begin testing with primary pupils.

### **Free school meals**

You're eligible for meal support if your child is between 5 and 16 years old and if you receive any of the following benefits:

Income support  
Income-based jobseeker's allowance, Income-related employment and support allowance, Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, The guaranteed element of pension credit, Child tax credit (if you're not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190), Working tax credit run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for working tax credit  
Universal credit - if you applied for it on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

If you've started receiving any of these benefits since the coronavirus outbreak, you're eligible for meal support. Visit <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/Pages/free-school-meals.aspx> and complete the online application form.

### **Non screen time**

As a staff we are aware of the increased screen time for our children with remote learning. We would like to encourage you all to also complete off screen activities and share these with staff as part of the work you are submitting. We are looking at developing our off screen activities we share with you and increasing more off screen activities as the weeks develop. In the meantime there is a sheet attached with some nice ideas to try but we are sure you have plenty of your own too.

### **Well being**

It is incredibly important that we all look after our own well-being and that of our children. Please know that we understand how difficult remote learning can be and physical and mental health comes at the top of the priority list at the moment. Do what you can with your child at home, keep them safe, have some fun and please don't worry if you cannot complete all the work. Just a little bit is great if that is what your family circumstances allow at the moment. If things get stressful at home, please stop and take a break from it. Try something else instead, adapt it to make it work for you and your child and reassure them that we appreciate all they and you are able to do. Staff are making contact with families when we don't hear from you for a period of time to firstly check all if ok. They want to see what they can do to help and see if there are any suggestions to how your child can learn in a way that is right for your family at this present time. Staff do understand the pressures parents are facing as many are also parents themselves and we are all just trying our best in very challenging times. Our online assembly this week by Miss Allen talked about the 5 ways to well-being which has been shared as a link on your class Teams pages.



We hope you all remain safe and well and look forward to a time when we can all be back together again.

Kind regards  
Havelock Schools