

FEDERATED SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
1st May 2020



Headteacher: Mrs. K. McDonald
Tel: 01642-778202 or 712340
e-mail: admin@bilsdalemidcable-chopgate.n-yorks.sch.uk
admin@carltonfaceby.n-yorks.sch.uk
Website: www.bilsdalecarltonschools.co.uk

Dear Parents,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. It has been quite some time now since the children were in school. You may have read the latest news from the Education Secretary Gavin Williamson, that the reopening of schools in England is expected to take place in a “phased manner”. The date for opening will depend on scientific advice and schools will get “as much notice as possible”. We are unsure as to whether this will mean that some year groups will return before others but we do know that schools will not reopen with a full complement of children.

In the meantime, we will continue as we are. Recently, I have enjoyed using Tapestry to see the children’s work and to be able to leave ‘likes’ and comments on the wonderful examples of home learning. Thank you to Mrs. Grundmann for setting that up for every child and well done to everyone for engaging with that. Tapestry is a fantastic and safe way for us all to keep in touch. Please remember that spelling shed is an important online learning tool that we ask you to use whether we are in lockdown or not.

The subjects that are considered ‘core’ are an important focus for learning. This includes reading, writing (spellings too), maths and science. As a parent, I have started using an online intervention tool called Century Tech, for David. I would certainly recommend taking a look. It’s free during lockdown which is always a bonus! I like the fact that it is diagnostic; assessing the child as they progress. David says that it’s, “fun and a good way to work”. I can see that some of you have been using Oak Academy which has recently been recommended by the Department for Education. Your teachers will continue to guide you towards what they have researched and know to be the best tools for home learning. It is the same for everyone with regards to children missing time in school so I would like to reassure you that every child will be supported with the transition back to school.

Right now, it is important to continue to do what you are doing in offering reassurance and spending quality time together.

Best wishes,

Kathryn McDonald

Class 1

Thank You Class 1 for all your fabulous home learning. I am so very proud of your achievements. You are all working so hard at home, it is great seeing your highlights on Tapestry. We have had a great start to our new Topic, Land Ahoy! It has been lovely to see such dedication, lot of amazing boats, research into types of boats, excellent 'Floating and Sinking' experiments in science, super spelling results and even a pirate! Keep up the great work.



Keeping Active

With the help of the super sunshine over the last few weeks it has been great to see so many of you keeping active in your gardens, cycling, walking and even completing the daily mile... it is truly fantastic! Thank You for the lovely smiles and waves from those of you who I have seen on my daily exercise.

Here is a really useful home learning link for PE –there are many really useful PE and Sporting activities which you can access via our school website.

<https://www.afpe.org.uk/thisispe-supporting-parents-to-teach-pe-at-home/>

With Dance being a significant element of the PE Curriculum and a past time of many of our pupils, there is a brilliant video for parents to try at home.

North Yorkshire Sport are offering pupils to take part in a virtual sport challenge – here is the link for those of you who may be up for a sporting challenge:

<https://www.northyorkshiresport.co.uk/virtual>

Online Safety at Home

To help your child/ren stay safe online there are some very useful fun, age appropriate activities you can do with your child to help keep them safe online.

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



Maths at Home

During this period of home learning, it is helpful to keep the basic skills in maths going: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. This does not have to be formal methods with a pencil and paper. By **playing games** and **keeping it fun**, children can become quicker with their mental maths.

Dominoes: lots of number recognition here. There are many versions of the game that can add a different layer of maths challenge. In Matador, the ends of the dominoes have to add to 7 rather than match up.



Card games: a whole range of games here from matching games like Snap, ordering and comparing numbers using Top Trumps and many games that involve addition.

Board games: dice games such as ludo and snakes and ladders children practise counting on, adding or subtracting. Someone could be the scorer for a game of scrabble. Monopoly involves money. You could pair up with your child to be the banker.



Darts involves a range of maths skills adding, subtracting, doubling and trebling. You could apply similar ideas to a safer target board game. Draw a large circle and section off, roll a ball and score whatever section it lands on. This could be an addition game (first to 50 or 100) or a subtraction games (from 101 down). Throw a ball into different buckets/containers labelled with different scores is another version.

Cooking - there's lots of maths involved in cooking weighing and measuring ingredients, telling the time and calculating duration. There's also opportunities for shape work when preparing fruit and vegetables. Lots of opportunities too for fractions: how many ways can you cut a sandwich in half? If there are six slices of pizza and I eat two slices, what fraction of the whole pizza have I eaten?

Money - As we are being asked pay for our shopping using cards rather than cash, let the children use the coins to set up a shop and show them how to check their change.

Learning **times tables** is really important as those skills are needed for fractions, percentages, ratio, area and capacity work in Y5, Y6 and at secondary school. **Times Tables Rock Stars** is a fast and fun way and the programme is designed to help the children practise the tables they need and move them on when they are ready. There are other websites where children can practise their tables such as **Hit the Button** and **Maths Chase**. These practise the skills whereas Rock Stars has an inbuilt progression sequence.

For formal lessons teaching new maths concepts, then we recommend [whiterosemaths.com](https://www.whiterosemaths.com). The videos are excellent, clearly showing the method and explaining the terminology. For parents of KS2 children, we also recommend www.century.tech which has diagnostic tests for the children and then it sends you nuggets to reinforce the gaps your child has.

Reading at Home



At the moment, we are all facing the challenge of only being allowed to leave our homes for exercise once a day. During this time books can help families to visit many different and exciting places and open doors to all kinds of new worlds. Maybe a trip to Narnia, a moment with the Victorians, a term at Hogwarts or perhaps returning to well, loved picture books that are family favourites. Books allow time travelling, experiences that unlock imaginations, help us to dream and inspire us.

A child's reading skills are important to their success as learners as they allow them to access the breadth of the curriculum and improve their communication and language skills. Maybe one of the silver linings to our current cloud is the opportunity for us to spend more time reading for pleasure. Studies show that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance. Likewise, evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

Try to have a moment each day that is dedicated reading time it maybe you reading with your child. It may be the whole family sharing a story, your child reading to you or maybe a family member, who is not able to visit, reading using some form of technology but it will always involve someone holding and reading a book and a listener absorbing the words.

During school closure there are is an extensive array of free resources available for children to support their reading and nurture their love of books and reading. We have included a list of these resources and links to how they can be accessed.

ACCELERATED READER - FREE BOOKS (for all).

Accelerated Reader are offering free books for ALL students to access regardless of being in the programme or not. Accelerated Readers can select the appropriate book ATOS level and preferred genre then take a quiz whilst other students can simply relax and unwind with a good book. There is an amazing selection of books! <https://readon.myon.co.uk/>

BOOKTRUST - NEW DIGITAL HUB & FREE RESOURCES

Booktrust, Waterstones and various authors have come together to create a range of resources relating to reading and books. The activities range from illustrations to writing and sharing recipes plus an array of competitions, quizzes and famous authors reading daily chapters of their books. The resources are updated every week. <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/>

BORROWBOX

The Borrowbox library has a wonderful array of both ebooks and Audiobooks to enjoy anywhere. <https://www.borrowbox.com/>

THE WORLD of WALLIAMS

Alongside the usual activities on the 'Walliams' website, David Walliams shares a number of his own stories, and yes, he does all the silly voices too! <https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

BEANO

Comic books, jokes, competition, and games including, Beano boredom buster! <https://www.beano.com/>

EYFS newsletter

Our topic for the half term is “Why can’t I have chocolate for breakfast?” (A useful question after Easter!). The topic focus is on healthy eating, exercise, shopping and cooking so it has actually been quite easy to adapt to home learning.

We are missing the children terribly and are really loving seeing what they are doing at home – thank you for uploading to Tapestry. This is certainly a time where the online learning journal comes into its own!

For one of last week’s home learning activities Mrs Howe set up a shop and gave the children some maths challenges – we really enjoyed seeing photos of your shops and number work.

Thank you so much for getting together (remotely!) to organise our lovely photo of the Reception children. It really meant a lot to us.

Here is a book about coronavirus for very young children that you may find useful to download –“Small Paul” by Joshua Massey:

[https://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Early%20years/eyc%20key%20mes
sages/April%202020/small-paul-a-story-about-covid-19.pdf](https://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Early%20years/eyc%20key%20messages/April%202020/small-paul-a-story-about-covid-19.pdf)



'Believe and Achieve'

<http://bilsdalecarltonschoools.co.uk/>



'Believe and Achieve'