



William Ford CE Junior School

Weekly Newsletter Spring Term 1 Week 1

Dear parents/carers and pupils,

Normally at the start of a new school term I would begin by saying 'welcome back.' That would seem a little strange under the current circumstances! That said, I do hope that you that you had a wonderful Christmas and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year!

As you will be aware, England is now under a national lockdown and schools are closed to the majority of pupils. The idea of this is to further limit the amount of social interaction that sadly cannot take place due to the high levels of COVID-19 infection across the country.

Locally, this is even more important as many media outlets are now reporting that Dagenham has the highest rates of infection in the country and that our local hospital is full. By closing the school to the vast majority of pupils, this limits opportunities for children to mix and pass the infection on to adults, limits interactions of parents at the school gate and means we can reduce the number of staff that are present at one time in the school building. To be clear, staff who are not in the building are still working through uploading online work, providing feedback to pupils and making calls home.

Currently, the school is open to the children of critical workers. Please be aware that these are parents who work in industries critical to the running of the country during a pandemic and not for workers who just cannot work from home. The school is also open to vulnerable children which includes children who are in receipt of Early Help, have an allocated social worker or have an EHCP. In his last statement in the Commons, the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, announced that vulnerable now includes pupils who cannot access remote learning due to a lack of a computing device or having no quiet place to work.

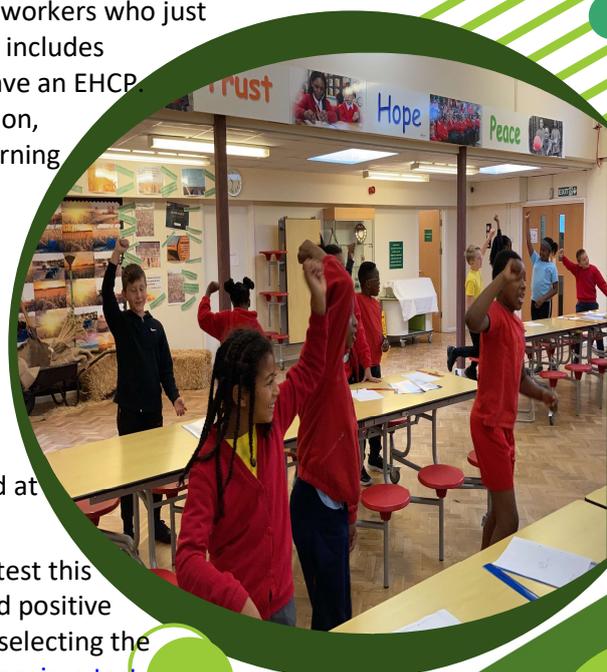
Of course at William Ford we want to support families who find themselves in this position. I believe by now most families who need a device have been in contact with us as our first preference would be to support you as much as possible in keeping your child(ren) at home. However, if you feel that you do need to send your child into school, please inform us by completing the online form available here: <https://tinyurl.com/y72tqu42>. Please only sign up if you do intend to send your child into school. Last time we asked parents to complete this form, thirty families did but we had less than ten children attend at the start of the week, causing us to be overstaffed.

We also ask that children who will be attending school undertake a COVID-19 test this Saturday by attending one of the borough's test centre unless they have tested positive within the last three months. This can be booked using the following link and selecting the option 'My local authority has asked me to have a test.' www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

If the test is positive or your child (or any one in their family bubble) develops symptoms, then your child must stay away from school. By coming into school, there is a high risk that your child will pass the virus onto other children and adults which would further disrupt education and potentially limit the amount of critical workers who can attend their employment. Even if your child does not show symptoms, there is a risk that those they pass the virus on to become seriously ill.

Thank you for your support at this challenging time.

Mr. David Huntingford
Headteacher



**Bible Verse
of the
Week**

2 Timothy 4:20

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Have you been wondering what your children were up to in school?

Well, wonder no more....



Year Three

Year 3 have really excelled this week. I am delighted with the quality and quantity of work our pupils have completed in these difficult times. Well done children (and parents)! Our English lessons have focused on spelling patterns and many children have commented on our PurpleMash blog that they really enjoyed exploring prefixes and suffixes in particular. For our Maths lessons, we have focused on visual representations of multiplication and how they can give us the deeper understanding needed for problem solving questions. In Science, we have looked at how food can be sorted into different groups based on the nutrients it contains, and why our bodies need a balanced diet to be healthy.

-que	'ch'	-que
plague	brochure	antique
tongue	chef	cheque
Monologue	Parachute	opaque
legue	brothel	Mosque
league	china	clique
vaque	machine	maque
catalogue	quench	

Year Four

It has been lovely to welcome back some of our children after the Christmas break. Children in school are completing exactly the same work as children at home. This week, Mrs Buckingham and Mrs Manning have both taught in school for half the week whilst Miss Albany and Miss Ibukun have been busy planning all our online learning and also monitoring the messages, questions and work submitted by the children at home. Lessons this week have ranged from PSHE where the children discussed their dreams and goals for the future through to the children learning about the human digestive system in science. We have begun a literacy topic based on the rainforests of the world, which

we will continue next week. We have also started to teach our brand new maths scheme which is proving to be very popular. The year four team would like to thank parents for their help with the children's online learning.



Year Five

Like other year groups, Year 5 teachers have been in school and working hard every day teaching the keyworker children who are in school and planning, preparing and uploading work to Purple Mash, recording videos and monitoring the work submitted by pupils and ringing children and parents to ensure that they are able to access the work.

We have tried to provide a broad menu of interesting and developmental work across the usual range of subjects. We decided to develop a new cross-curricular topic based on our existing History topic, The Vikings for our English, Art and Music work, too. For History, children have been researching who the Vikings were and where they came from and producing a fact-finding leaflet about them. In English, we have started looking at a novel called Viking Boy by Tony Bradman and, initially, the children have been thinking about character development and have been writing a description of their main character. In Art, we have asked children to design and make their own Viking shield and in Music, they have been exploring

their responses to a piece of music called Tread of Doom, which will lead onto learning some songs based on the Viking Sagas. Additionally, for English, we have also set a reading comprehension based on the e-book Horde of Ravens on Purple Mash and we have been looking at word classes in Grammar.

In maths, we have begun following our new White Rose scheme of work, which we had been due to implement in school from January. We hope that children have been finding the demonstration videos informative and helpful. This week, the focus has been on multiplication.



Year Six

We are so impressed with the pupils who are completing their online learning at home as well as those that have been in school in unusual circumstances this week! We have started a new geography project called 'Why Are Mountains So Important' and the pupils have learnt about different types of mountain ranges and where they are located in the world. We will be linking some writing in English to this project next week. In maths, they have been looking at direction and position in the four quadrants. We have also started our new PSHE unit called 'Dreams and Goals' and the pupils have set themselves a realistic personal goal as well as a learning goal. We have also started a new computing unit that uses 2Logo on Purple Mash as a form of computer coding.

