



William Ford CE Junior School

Weekly Newsletter Autumn Term 2 Week 5

Dear parents/carers and pupils,
This has been a very challenging week. As you are aware, we do have a number of adult COVID cases across the school resulting in others having to self-isolate. As I am sure you can appreciate, this has been difficult for the school to manage and we thank you for your continued patience and support at this extremely challenging time. Whilst we are grateful for your support, I do imagine you probably have some questions. How has the

school gone from having very few cases to so many? What has changed? Is the school safe? I will do my best to address these for you.

As we are all aware, COVID-19 is a highly infectious virus that transmits easy. The effect it can have on adults is usually much more significant than the effect it has on children. As a result, the school has implemented a range of measures including: keeping pupils in smaller groups away from others; increasing cleaning routines; introducing a new entrance to the school to improve social distancing along with asking parents and visitors to wear marks. We have been keeping adults socially distanced within school by limiting numbers in the staffroom and ensuring any gatherings of staff are only in large, well ventilated areas.

Sadly, nearly all of the adult cases have started at once and have not presented with the usual symptoms. All staff who have felt unwell have tried to book tests, but some were informed that their current symptoms made them ineligible and that they did not have the virus. Sadly, this does seem to have caused a mini outbreak amongst staff.

Ever since schools returned in September, all staff have been acutely aware that they are at a higher risk of catching Covid-19 yet they have gone about their daily work with care, skill and professionalism: ensuring that all pupils are cared for, kept safe and educated. The need to keep their distance from pupils is something that no adult likes yet such measures have protected our pupil population. Every day, they greet each pupil with a smile: they reassure any nervous child (or parent) with regards to the school's safety measures and they ensure our school continues to be a happy, fun-filled place of learning whilst managing their own anxieties about the virus. For this, I cannot thank them enough.

I am not able or willing to disclose the medical details about staff members but I can share that I am one of the staff members who has tested positive, and has been rather ill with the virus. My symptoms began Friday night, and I was tested on Saturday. Why am I telling you this? Because I can personally testify to the effects of Covid-19: the exhaustion, the breathlessness and the fear that things may get worse. Fortunately, I do feel that I have been lucky and am on the mend. I look forward to being back in school early next week and I cannot thank Mrs. Legg enough for the fantastic job she has done in stabilising the school community and for covering my absence.



Please do continue to do everything you can to support us. Please do socially distance and wear a mask at the gate. Please use the back gate if your child is in Years 4 or 5 and you do not need to collect from Village Infants. The extra safety this provides is worth the extra five minute walk. Finally, if you or your child are showing any symptoms, please arrange a test and do not attend school. Failing to abide by these measures not only places you and your family at risk but also the whole school community.

Above all, do pass on your thanks and good wishes to the staff. You may not like all of the decisions that we make but they are made to protect everyone's safety and there are a lot of measures imposed that are outside of our control.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon.
Mr. David Huntingford
Headteacher

Nahum 1:7

The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.





Meet our TEAM

This week: Mrs. Collins-Greenwood



Mrs Collins-Greenwood is a member of our mid-day team and has worked at William Ford for four years. She has two daughters and loves going to concerts, all things Disney and travelling, especially Florida which she visits every other year.

Interesting fact: Mrs. Collins-Greenwood holds two City & Guilds certificates in Animal Care/Welfare and Animal Management.

Reindeer Run!

For the past two years, William Ford Children have raised a significant amount of money for the King George's and Queen's Hospital Charity. Even in this time, we hope to do the same. Our annual 'Great Reindeer Run' will be held in the comfort of your own homes. Make a pair of antlers and wear them on your head while galloping around your garden, house, park or street. We want to see photos on the school community Facebook page or on the designated display board on Purple Mash. If you would then like to support the charity, please donate by clicking on the following link and including 'William Ford School' in your comments. www.justgiving.com/campaign/Reindeer-Run2020

Kerry's Kristmas Kountdown Korner



In light of our recent letters, you may want to discuss Covid-19 with your children. These websites have useful, child friendly explanations to help answer any questions your child may have.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/childrens-guide-to-coronavirus/>

<https://www.stretchchildren.org/resources/child-friendly-covid-19-booklet/>

If you would like a version suitable for SEND children, please email me at family-support@williamfordschool.co.uk Please remember to update the school should you or your child show symptoms and require testing. You can call me on 07809 903950 between 9am and 5:30pm if you have any worries or concerns.

Stay safe.

Winter Flu vaccination

A few parents have asked me about the winter flu vaccination for pupils.

I can confirm that all pupils will receive the winter flu vaccination (administered via a nose spray) on Tuesday 15th December 2020. If you do not want your child immunised, please indicate this on the form you have received.

I can also confirm that the vaccine DOES NOT contain any gelatin.

Thank you.

WF Christmas card competition

Thank you to all children who participated in the William Ford Christmas card competition. I can tell you it was no easy task deciding who would get the prizes! All of the cards were so wonderfully decorated.

- First prize winner – A joint effort between siblings Victoria in 5H and Alexandra in 3A (hopefully they share the prize just as well). You have won an art set and your card is shown in this newsletter for everyone to see →→→
- Second prize winner – Jaden in 3M you have won a mindfulness colouring in book
- Third prize winner – Mercy in 4I you have won some colouring in pencils

Thank you again to all children that entered.
Miss Ibukun



Learning from Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, to work diligently, act generously and live at peace with everyone.

Psalm 34:14 - Seek peace and pursue it.



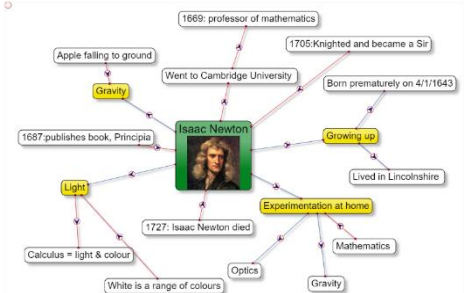
Have you been wondering what your children were up to in school?

Well, wonder no more....

and playing along to the chorus of Mamma Mia, which we are trying to master. At playtime, it was a joy to see some of the children decide to have a game of basketball (You would be proud, Miss Finch). It was a very passionate game, Girls vs Boys, with the children drawing 1-1. Miss Ibukun observed many of the skills they have been learning this term in PE.



working from home, with the exception of art, work has been set via our Purple Mash platform, which builds on the work that we began earlier in the week in each of these subjects. There is additionally an RE task of reading about the special pilgrimage for Muslims known as the Hajj, where the children have been asked to imagine being at the Hajj and sending a postcard home informing everyone at home about it.



Year Three

As part of our English unit this week, Year 3 have read several more chapters of our book Storm and our children have acted out the role of the main character as a way of imagining her feelings, thoughts and emotions. We have also taken some time to allow the children to share their favourite books and each of our classrooms has its own reading area where these recommendations can be accessed. Our maths lessons have been focused on mental strategies for addition and subtraction, and we have practised using counting up as well as partitioning. In PE, we have been learning the rules and techniques for tag rugby and this week focused on dodging and passing.



Year Four

In English, Year 4 enjoyed learning about the WW1 Christmas truce in 1914 and wrote thought provoking diary entries on this historical event. In music, there were mixed reviews on our thoughts on the hit single 'Dancing Queen' by ABBA. We all enjoyed getting our hands on the glockenspiels

Year Five

This week we have begun looking at statistics in maths: reading and interpreting data in tables and graphs. In our English/geography cross-curricular topic on St Lucia, the children started researching information about another of the endangered species in the Caribbean - the sea turtle. They have been finding out about its habitat and lifecycle and the things that humans may be able to do to protect them. The children then began to devise posters describing the threats and the potential strategies to save them.

In art, we have continued to look at the famous Hundertwasserhaus in Vienna and the children have been developing their designs for decorating the exterior, beginning to work with oil pastels.

In history, the children have been looking at religion in Anglo-Saxon Britain and comparing life then and now.

In science, the children were beginning to find out about Isaac Newton and, in particular, his discovery of gravity. Now that the children are currently

Year Six

In Year 6 this week, the children's science and written work has focused on the inspirational life and work of Mary Anning.

They have researched her childhood and upbringing and her dedication to investigating fossils found on the beach of her hometown, Lyme Regis, in Dorset. They have all been fascinated by the fossils of the ichthyosaur and the plesiosaur that she first discovered. They were surprised to discover that she was not recognised in her lifetime. The children have started to write their own biographies of her pioneering work and fascinating life.



In maths, the children have continued to work with fractions. They have investigated how to find fractions of quantities and have used their knowledge to complete a range of word problems.