



William Ford CE Junior School

Weekly Newsletter Spring Term 1 Week 2

Dear parents/carers and pupils,

Back at the start of lockdown, we made a commitment to continually review and adapt our remote learning offer. With this in mind, I would like to let you know of two exciting developments. The first is that we are further differentiating the work that we are setting for pupils.

From Monday, all children will receive the same input but for English and maths, you will see two different choices of activities. All pupils should attempt the blue tasks unless you receive a separate letter from us inviting you to attempt the orange tasks. We will also be providing a 'challenge question:' an extension to really challenge anyone who has found the set work relatively simple! We look forward to receiving your submissions to the various tasks we set!

Next, we recognise that Purple Mash is new to a lot of parents who are working incredibly hard to engage with the home learning that we set. Following an excellent suggestion on the school's Facebook page, we are planning to host a Parent's Zoom Workshop on Wednesday 20th January at 9:30am where we can demonstrate how to use Purple Mash, including the 2Do's, the blog and submitting work. Details on how to register for this event are on the next page.

I do hope you are aware of just how hard teachers are working to provide remote learning. The expectation on what is provided has certainly increased and I am aware of teachers at home working very long hours. As I am sure you will appreciate, we do have to protect teacher's family life and work life balance hence please be aware that comments/questions submitted to blogs after 3:30pm may not get a response until the next day. This is not because the teachers stop working at 3:30pm – far from it! This allows them to concentrate their efforts in preparing and uploading the next day's learning as well as marking and providing feedback on that day's submissions.

Hopefully you received the letter I sent yesterday stating that we wish to test everybody – pupils and staff – on a weekly basis. Whilst this can never guarantee that COVID-19 does not enter our building (someone could get infected the day after being tested), the risk is greatly reduced. Weekly testing also means the vast majority of asymptomatic positive cases are isolated quickly before any infection spreads too far.

Barking and Dagenham still has the highest level of cases in the whole country, and the UK is one of the worst infected countries in Europe, if not the world! This is not a league table where we want to be top! The best way you can help reduce the rates and support the school, local area and NHS is by following all of the rules and guidance and only sending your child into school if it is *absolutely* essential. Our numbers are increasing everyday which means the risk of infections spreading increases and we have to reduce our home learning offer as teacher divert their efforts to in class teaching. We recognise we have a number of critical worker families in the school yet it is frustrating to hear from some children that whilst one parent is at work, another is working from home or in a minority of cases, at home on furlough. Potentially, by sending your child in unnecessarily, you may end up depriving a family of two key workers a place within the school. We know it is challenging having your children at home (I, like a lot of staff are in the same position) but it is important we all do what we can to address this urgent situation.



Thank you for your support at this challenging time.

Mr. David Huntingford
Headteacher



John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."



Meet our **TEAM**

This week: Mr. Marbe

Mr. Marbe has worked at William Ford for six years. He is our science co-ordinator and Year Three group leader. Mr. Marbe enjoys cycling and reading when he is not busy teaching and planning.

Interesting fact: Mr. Marbe can speak fluent Spanish.



Kerry's Korner

There are several options available to help support your child accessing online learning:

- 4. Additional data on your mobile phone from the service provider.** Currently these include: Three, Smarty, Virgin Mobile, EE, Tesco Mobile, Sky Mobile. To access this please provide us with:
 - the name of the account holder
 - the number of the mobile device
 - the mobile network of that device (for example Three)
 - whether you pay monthly or pay as you go
- 5. 4G wireless device.** We can request a 4G wireless device for you to use for completing educational work, - This device would be on loan to you temporarily and would be capped at 20GB of data each month. It must only be used for educational studies and is unable to be topped up. If you currently have broadband at home you are unable to request this device.
- 6. Free BT wifi.** We have a small number of unique vouchers for free wifi access from BT, we would advise before requesting a voucher that you check your home postcode for wifi coverage from the BT Hotspots <https://www.btwifi.com/find/>

The voucher can only be used on one device and is a temporary which expires in July 2021

If you would like to request any of the above please email family-support@williamfordschool.co.uk with the subject line MOBILE , 4G or BT and provide your child's name and class and your name and contact telephone number.



Welfare calls

Next week we will begin our programme of welfare calls.

We recognise lockdown is challenging for adults and children hence we aim to call every family, at least once a week, to check everything is ok, if you require any support, help or resources for learning and just to have a quick chat. We do hope we can speak to pupils as well as adults.

Due to the number of children in the school, there is a good chance that the call will come from a member of staff who works within the year group but is not the class teacher. Also, as a number of staff members are working from home, the call is likely to come from a withheld number rather than the school's number. We will only be making calls during school hours.

We look forward to speaking to you!

Purple Mash with Ms. Nash

As mentioned earlier, Ms. Nash, our fantastic Computing lead is planning to hold a virtual parent workshop where she will explain the various features of Purple Mash including where your children can locate their work. Whilst this is an event for adults, we recognise that some parents will access this through the only device that the family owns, delaying your child's home learning. As a result, children who want a refresher session are welcome to attend providing they are supervised by an accompanying adult.

This event will take place, via Zoom, on Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 9:30am. If you would like a place on the Zoom meeting, please send an email to Family-support@williamfordschool.co.uk and we will reply with the log on details. We ask, especially as children may be on the call, that you do not share these log on details with anyone else.



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.

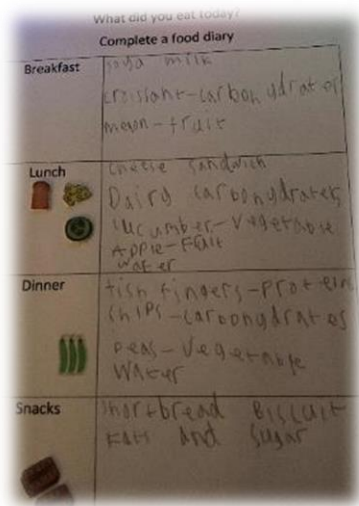
Have you been wondering what your children were up to in school?

Well, wonder no more....



Year Three

Year Three should be congratulated on their fantastic work this week. We have been so proud of the work they have produced and are extremely grateful for the large quantities of work they have uploaded to purple mash for us to see. Our English/Geography unit has this week focused on using non-fiction texts to learn about different countries around the world. For Maths, we have continued with the difficult topic of multiplication and division, and the new visual representations seem to be really the children to tackle tricky problems. In Science, we learned more about food groups and started to think about which groups the foods we eat are part of.



Year Four

This week we have continued with our mini topic based on the rainforest. Children have examined the effects of palm oil plantations on rainforest areas and this has cumulated in the children writing a letter to a company asking them to reconsider using or selling items containing palm oil. Are your children going to post their letters? The children in school have! In science, we

have looked at the different types of teeth humans have and their different functions. We have continued using our new maths scheme, White Rose, to help us complete longer multiplication calculations. Within art, the children have begun to explore the work of Wassily Kandinsky, and in R.E. the children have thought about questions to ask Christians about the trinity, their beliefs and the holy spirit. P.S.H.E. has been especially important this week as the focus has been upon building resilience. The year four team would like to thank parents for their continued help with the children's online learning.



Year Five

This week in Year Five, we have continued working on our cross-curricular Vikings project with both the children learning at home and those in school. In history, the children have been researching Viking longboats and presenting their findings in a slideshow. They have then been using their knowledge that they have found out in English to write the next chapter in their Viking story describing a voyage in a longboat. In art, the children have been making their own longboats in whatever medium they wish to, to go with their shields which they have made. In Music, they have started to learn some songs based on Viking sagas.

We are continuing to follow our new White Rose scheme in maths and have

been continuing to develop the children's skills in long multiplication with increasingly large multipliers. In science, the children have this week been using scientific methods for writing up their investigations into waterproof materials, which they carried out last week.

While the current circumstances are challenging for all of us, it has been so encouraging and uplifting for all the Year Five teachers to see how many of the children at home are engaging with the learning which we are providing and trying so hard in such difficult circumstances. We are so looking forward to having them back in school as soon as it is possible to do so.



Year Six

In Year six this week, the pupils have continued their project about mountains. They have looked at how crinoid fossils have been found over 8000km high on top of the world's tallest mountain – Mount Everest. They have drawn their own diagrams and written a report to explain how. In science, they have started a new unit called Animals Including Humans and have begun to look at several body systems. In mathematics they have continued working on percentages. In computing the pupils have continued to use 2Logo and have used it to navigate a boat around a river.

