



## Newsletter No 25

March 2020

Our Current Value is: **Positivity and Perseverance**

Dear Parents and Carers

Staff have been working overtime this week to get home learning packs ready for children, making sure our school building is as hygienic as possible and being so positive in motivating and keeping everyone going. They are an amazing team to work with and we owe them all a debt of gratitude for the dedication they have shown to supporting the whole school community during these difficult times. I have been overwhelmed by the number of staff who ask what more they can do to help and support.

We do not know at this stage how long schools are going to be closed for and I will keep you updated as much as I can.

Teachers have sent home learning packs with the children for the next two weeks. They have also signposted you to on line resources. It is likely that you will require work for longer and after Easter. If this is the case we will send further instruction via Dojo and will deliver learning packs to your home.

Teachers will also post daily messages and tasks on Class Dojo to vary the activity. It is important that children have a rounded education and not just do pen and paper exercises. Teachers will be suggesting some experiments and art activities that children can do. It is also important to keep up daily physical activities, get fresh air and to limit screen time to what you would normally allow with maybe an exception for some on line learning.

Whilst we are expecting parents to take over the role of teachers over the next few weeks, and this may be a daunting task for some of you, please do not think that we have abandoned our responsibilities as the key educators for your children. Teachers will be setting something everyday and will be expecting every child to engage with this, but with your support. Your pack will include a suggested daily timetable to help with organisation and time to be spent on tasks.

It is definitely not a holiday. We also expect children to be sending their work to their teacher each day – either a photograph, uploading it or just contacting them to say what they have done. Whilst teachers will not be marking work in the same way as they do at school they will be commenting on what children have done where possible. If we find children are not engaging then Mrs Burnett or I will contact you to see if there is anything we can do to support on line activities and communication.

Please do not be afraid to contact our staff. Teachers (and I) will be available to answer your questions and queries during the hours of 8.30am and 4.30pm. Sometimes we will be on site and sometimes we will be working from home. If you contact them out of these hours then they will probably not reply until the next day. Please be mindful that teachers will be in school some days looking after the children of key workers and on those particular days may not be able to answer questions immediately. Also, teachers working from home may also be responsible for their own children.

The best way to get in touch with teachers is through Class Dojo, but if you need to email them their addresses are as follows:  
@madley-brook.oxon.sch.uk



Mrs Robinson eprat0223@  
Miss Fillary sfil4675@  
Miss Gardener pgar4422@  
Mrs Wakeling lree4561@  
Mrs Bishop sbis9997@  
Miss Wise kwis2739@  
Miss Edwards hedw5010@  
Mrs Tinsley jtin4209@  
Mrs McPherson amcp3324@  
Ms Evans rjon3040@  
Miss Watton zwat0370@  
Mrs Harris lhar3687@  
Mrs Ellis kale8048@  
Mrs Burnett abur3102@

Mrs McPherson will be back after Easter from her maternity leave. We have to have a virtual welcome of that but are pleased to see her back. She and Mrs Tinsley will be back sharing Maple Class. Mrs McPherson will work Mondays, Tuesday and alternate Wednesdays, Mrs Tinsley alternate Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

### Key Workers' Children

A small number of children will continue to come to school for childcare purposes. These are the children of the government's nominated key worker list who have no alternative means of childcare. As much as we would like to accommodate as many children as we can there has been a clear directive that schools should only be looking after a small number of children in order to help the national response to slow the spread of coronavirus.

Parents needing to use our childcare facilities will need to:

- **Have confirmation from me that you meet the criteria – please do not assume your child is eligible.** If you are unsure please email me today or over the weekend.
- Let me know exactly which days your child will be in (a week at a time will be suffice), part time is fine but we need to know the days so we can staff accordingly.
- Let the school office know as soon as possible if your child is not going to attend when we expect them to attend and the reason why.

We still have to complete attendance registers.

- Hot schools dinners are available as usual or you can bring a packed lunch. Menu will vary from the published one:  
Monday Pizza or chick pea curry  
Tuesday Sausage roll or Shepherds Pie  
Wednesday Roast Turkey, Quorn  
Thursday Mexican Beef, vegi bolognaise  
Friday Frittata, fish and chips
- Drop your child in school by 8.30am and pick them up at 3.00pm. Breakfast Club will not be open but if you need to drop your child earlier please let me know and we will do what we can to accommodate this.
- Ensure your child has their reading book and home learning pack with them on the first day.
- Please drop your child at the main entrance on Monday – I am still confirming numbers so we are not entirely sure at this stage which classrooms we will use.
- Children do not need school uniform – just clothes suitable for playtime and art activities.

### A Message from Governors

We appreciate that these are challenging and uncertain times for staff, parents and children. We would like to say an enormous thank you to staff for all that they are doing under these extraordinary circumstances. Their hard work and positive attitude continue to be amazing, and staff have the ongoing gratitude and full support of the governing body.

We would also like to thank parents, carers and children for coming together and working with the school: your support and kindness is greatly appreciated. We wish all staff, parents, carers and children well.

### Other News:

Thank you to everyone for supporting Sports Relief – we raised £279

Last Wednesday 11th March some year 5/6 girls played in an U11 football tournament at Carterton Community College. The girls worked so well as a

team and were extremely supportive of one another. They played 4 games and came second in their pool but sadly just missed a chance in the semi-final. Well done to those who took part.

Last week our netball team played two league games. One on Thursday against Finstock and one on Friday against Tower Hill. Both games were played at home and Madley Brook played brilliantly in both matches and had some great tactics. Their game against Finstock was a draw of 3-3 and the score against Tower Hill was 5-2! Well done to those who took part and we look forward to more exciting games over the next few weeks!

### **Attachments**

Via Pupil Post

Work Packs – we will post packs of children not in school on Friday

Via Parent Mail

School Nurse Newsletter

These are very worrying times for us all. I will endeavour to update you through Parent Mail as and when I have information to share.

In the meantime I wish you and your families all the very best and hope you keep safe.

Yours sincerely

Katherine Spencer