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Warwick Bridge Primary School
Newsletter No 18
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We are now moving in to the fifth week of school closures and at Warwick Bridge we are continuing to teach a small number of pupils in school whilst carrying out remote learning for all pupils who are at home. All the staff at school are grateful for the support from parents and carers at this time. Remote learning and supporting the children at home are difficult aspects of education. There has never been a time in the history of education where these innovations have been so widespread and used by so many staff and pupils. A lot has been written about the merits of education via digital devices. We are committed to providing the best in online learning coupled with paper learning at home. There are a whole host of non-screen activities to support all aspects of learning and these are available on the school website.

Staff News

Miss Day has now begun her maternity leave. We wish her all the best for the coming weeks and we will keep you all informed of her progress at all times. Mrs Kelly is now working with Mrs Douglass with the children from the Arctic Foxes class. Miss Stobbs will now be working with the pupils in the Year 4/5 Arctic Foxes class as Miss Day is on maternity leave.

There are a number of new faces on the Zoom calls we are having in school. Three student teachers will be working with the school for the next few weeks. Miss Marshall will be working with Mrs McBride and the children in Early Years. She will be in Zoom assemblies and class lessons. Mrs Simpson will be working with Miss Hogarth's Y1/2 class and will also be joining the Polar Bears online for their digital sessions. In the Year 3/4 Arctic Foxes class, Miss Moreland will join the children for their Zoom sessions. These three teachers will be involved in Zoom lessons with the class teachers in attendance at all times. If schools return to normal after half-term, these student teachers will be further involved in the delivery of lessons.

Remote Learning

Your child should be able to access live learning and activities with their teachers and TA staff. We realise that learning at home is not ideal for everyone. Please ensure, however, that your child is on time for their 1:1 lesson or class session with the school staff member. If you are having difficulties in joining the lessons, contact the class teacher as soon as possible via Class Dojo or email. Parents and carers are quite often juggling their own work from home along with the support of the children's work. This is indeed a difficult time and we thank you for all your efforts. Similarly, staff are working from home setting the work and delivering live sessions. They are also coming in to school to teach in the Bubble. And for staff who have their own children to educate the pressure to ensure that all these areas can be successfully supported is immense. We thank you for your understanding and patience at this time.

Attendance at School

If you are a Key Worker and your role is pivotal to the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, you can have your child attend school between 9am-3pm Mon -Thurs and 9am-12noon on Fridays. The message is very clear however – if your child can stay at home, they must stay at home. Parents and carers must try to source childcare and not send children in to school. The government guidance is very clear – wherever possible, children must stay at home. In the extreme cases of parents/carers being Key and Critical Workers, children have a place at school. But please understand that during this lockdown period the school is only open to serve the children of the Key and Critical Workers. You must let school know well in advance of your plans to send any child to school. Telephone the school or contact the class teacher on Class Dojo as soon as possible.

Technology for Online Learning

One of the most difficult aspects of learning remotely is ensuring that the technology used is suitable for the tasks. We have been able to support some families who needed different devices in order to access online learning. If you are having issues with the tablet, laptop or device that you are using for remote education, please let your class teacher know. The school has secured monies from various grants to buy more equipment that can be used to learn at home. We have also benefitted from the generosity of local people who have donated devices to school. For this we are very thankful. Remember to let us know if you are struggling in any way with the devices and web access you have. Support is out there and we can offer it.

WBS - Working, Believing, Succeeding – A Wonderful Bridge to Success

Children's Mental Health Week 2021

Nationally, Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on 1-7 February 2021. This year's theme is 'Express Yourself'. Cumbria County Council would like to hear about ways that you have helped your children and families to adapt and keep going, throughout the pandemic. The council are inviting you to send photos of activities that you have done with children to provide calm, nurture and consistency during this strange time. Please send your contributions in digital format to [**Lucy.Pye@cumbria.gov.uk**](mailto:Lucy.Pye@cumbria.gov.uk) by the end of Thursday 4th February. All entries received will be entered into a prize draw.

Help for Families

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected people in lots of ways, and whilst Cumbrian communities have been fantastic at supporting each other, many people are finding they need a bit of extra help and support. These webpages provide information about support available to people in Cumbria, online and on the phone. [**https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/welfare/default.asp**](https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/welfare/default.asp)

The message is 'Don't wait for problems to get worse, there are organisations that can help, and it's better to get advice sooner rather than later'. Cumbria County Council can provide urgent help and emergency support, including basic food and essential items, or if you (or someone you know) are struggling to cope with your current situation for whatever reason.

Support Helpline - 0800 783 1966 (Monday to Thursday 9am to 5pm, Friday 9am to 4.30pm).

Emails to [**COVID19support@cumbria.gov.uk**](mailto:COVID19support@cumbria.gov.uk) will receive a response within one working day.

Have a good weekend

Mr M Ashton