

Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that this time last week was New Year's Day and we were just thinking about the start of the new term. After one normal school day on Monday, we were unknowingly plunged into a national lockdown again with only the children of the critical worker parents in accessing school provision.

Thank you for your understanding while school was closed on Tuesday to allow us the time to information gather and get the structure in place ready to begin the next day. We also really appreciate every single kind and appreciative comment as well as the donations of biscuits(!) that we have received this week, they have really meant so much.

We would really like to thank the members of the staff team who have taken 'above and beyond' to a new level this week – we have seen many examples of pure teamwork, sharing one another's workload and even attending a staff meeting just before bedtime! Our staff have a genuine love and care for your children, please know how committed we are to supporting them (and you) throughout this time.

These are testing times for us all and every single person's experience of them will be unique. Everyone is doing the best they can. What matters the most is that every single person in the Harnham community remains connected, supported and valued throughout.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday, whether in school or on Seesaw!

Have a restful weekend,

The Harnham Infant School Team



Newsletter 15

Forest School Day for School-based children:

Each year group in school will have a Forest School Day. Please may the children come to school dressed in Forest School clothes and have their kit in school on the following days:

Monday – Year 1

Thursday – Year 2

Friday – EYFS

I in you!



Menu for Next Week for the Critical Children Bubbles in School:

We are pleased to be offering the following choices of hot dinners for next week:

Monday: Chicken Goujons or Omelette

Tuesday: Beef lasagne or Tomato pasta bake

Wednesday: Pizza or Veggie Sausages

Thursday: Roast Chicken or Quorn fillet

Friday: Fish fingers or Veggie Goujons

If you need help with anything or need some support, please email:

requestforsupport@harnham-inf.wilts.sch.uk



Home Learning Offer and Expectations:

As you will have gathered, some children remain in school full time, some children are in school some of the time and some children are at home all of the time. Therefore, we have carefully planned our School Curriculum and adapted it for this lockdown period to be progressive and sequential, offering exactly the same learning experiences whether the children are in school or at home.

Therefore, it is anticipated that children will engage in learning daily – in fact the DfE have asked us to complete a **daily register** to ensure that children remain engaged in learning and ask that we have daily contact for all children. We have to submit our “attendance” during this period, just like any other school term.

It also means that, if children are completing a mixture of learning in school or at home, they will not repeat any experiences and conversely, do not need to play “catch up” on home days either.

Work completed in school will also be uploaded to Seesaw so that parents can see the journey the children are on and remain involved in their children’s learning at all times. From next week you will find daily work uploaded to Seesaw which will also include a range of teaching videos from our teaching team, plus activities and games for the children to play. This is different for each year group’s curriculum so won’t mean, for example that everyone gets the same amount of videos etc. The teachers are busy planning this very carefully to meet the needs of the children in their care. If anyone has any remaining difficulties accessing Seesaw, please do get in touch.

We really do understand that every family and every personal situation is different. It is never our intention to put too much pressure or overwhelm anybody with the work that is set or expected. For some families it will seem a lot and for other families it will seem not enough. This is a delicate balance of juggling the government requirement of setting 3 hours worth of work per day, mixed with creating learning activities that are exciting, engaging and do not require too many resources at home, whilst also trying to ensure that each family have the technology and devices required to do so. All of this before even thinking about other work commitments or multiple children and home learners in the household! We do understand because many of us are experiencing the same responsibilities in our own families! Above anything else, we need to ensure that you all stay safe and well during this time, physically and medically, yes, but mentally healthy too. Please try to support your children to do what they can with their learning but you must look after yourselves too.

Keep it lighthearted, keep it little and often and keep it fun. Even on a normal day we do not expect the children in school with us to sit at a desk for 3 or more hours per day without getting up and about and engaging with resources and toys.

We would like to reiterate again, that if anyone needs any support with anything at all, please do get in touch. This is why we had the email address created: requestforsupport@harnham-inf.wilts.sch.uk We can assure you that you will always get a timely, understanding, kind and friendly response. ☺

MANAGING CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) ANXIETY

-  **For You**
- Avoid excessive exposure to media coverage
 - Connect through calls/text/internet
 - Add extra time for daily stress relief
 - Practice self-care
 - Focus on your mental health

-  **For Kids**
- Reassure them that they're safe
 - Let them talk about their worries
 - Share your own coping skills
 - Limit their news exposure
 - Create a routine & structure

BlessingManifesting

-  **For Quarantine/Isolation**
- Keep in contact with your loved ones via social media, texts, and phone calls
 - Create a daily self-care routine
 - Keep yourself busy: games, books, movies
 - Focus on new relaxation techniques

Telephone Calls

We are so keen to stay in touch through this time and class teachers will begin telephoning families next week.

These calls are likely to be from a ‘withheld’ number or say ‘No Caller ID’. Calls are estimated to be fortnightly.

Please do pick up because we would love to speak with you and see how you are getting on.

As we all become a bit more ‘tech-savvy’ or spend more time using our technology and devices, **please stay safe online!**



you got this

Parent Support Advisor:

Chris Lister, our Parent Support Advisor is still working throughout this lockdown period. She is a great listening ear and a fantastic source of information and support whatever your situation. If you would like to have a confidential chat, you can get in touch with her on 07595 217569 or you can email her too psa@harnham-inf.wilts.sch.uk

Children in School:

As you know the government have asked us to remain open for the children of critical workers or for those considered 'vulnerable'. We were inundated with requests on Tuesday for a space. Just as a comparison, we thought it would be interesting to know that we have seen, and allocated a 500% increase on numbers of children in school during this lockdown compared to last Spring.

We would like to thank the families who have rearranged shifts and working patterns so that as many children can stay at home as possible, as per the national guidance.

Family and Community Learning

Build Your Budget Online

20 January 2021 10:00-12:00



This course is 1 session a week for 5 weeks. It will help you to:

- create a basic budget for your household
- create balanced meal plans to save money and minimise food waste
- develop an understanding of healthy eating
- become more environmentally aware
- explore ways to save energy
- plan for the future
- share money saving tips and ideas with other families.

Contact Details:

Email: Familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk

Website: Workwiltshire.co.uk/familylearning/

Call: 01225 770478



Courses are funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Learners must be 19+, have been resident in the UK for three or more years or be a service family member, have less than 5 GCSE's A-C and/or be in receipt of benefits including tax credits/universal credits/child benefit or be unemployed. If you do not feel you fit within the criteria, we still may be able to help so please call if you have any questions.

Wiltshire Council

Family and Community Learning Team:

Are running this free course during this national lockdown. Due to stay at home restrictions and requirements of home learning the team are being flexible with the time slots the course is being run. Do get in touch with them if you are interested.

They are also running courses for parents to help support children with remote learning

To find out more please visit the website or contact the team via email

at familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk

Did you know?

X-box and Playstation also offer a way that these devices can be useful for home learning, particularly if you have older children in your household. You can access Microsoft packages through the Apps there.

The Wiltshire WELLBEING HUB

For vulnerable people in need of support

0300 003 4576

wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk

#WiltshireTogether

Wiltshire Council

The Wiltshire Well-being hub:

The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub is also in operation during this lockdown. They are available for anyone who would like some additional support and are open on a Saturday too. Please see the contact details below.



Something for the Weekend:

Throughout this lockdown time, you will find your 'Something for the Weekend' as a special video message from Miss Dorrington. We hope you enjoy it!

