



## NEWSLETTER 8 January 2021

Home learning suggestions, links to activities and details of organisation who can provide support and advice during the school closure can be found on the **Covid-19 page** on the school website [www.guiseleyprimary.org](http://www.guiseleyprimary.org)

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

This was certainly not the news that any of us wanted to start the new school term. Although I can appreciate why the decision had to be made, the timing was, in my opinion, far from ideal. However, 'it is what it is' as the saying goes and we will do our best to pull together as a school community.

As a school, we pride ourselves in trying to support working parents as far as is possible. However, on this occasion, by following the government guidance and enabling children to attend where at least one parent is a critical worker we have found ourselves in a situation where classes are becoming potentially unsafe for the children and staff within them. I have re-read the guidance and I am now asking you to consider the phrase "Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required." My understanding is that the lockdown is to reduce contact and reduce the infection rate and yet we currently have almost 200 children attending school. Other schools that have followed the guidance are in a similar situation and LCC have issued the letter attached which outlines the situation more clearly: "the best action for you to take for your child, yourself and the whole community is to keep your child at home." This is not a message that I like to send to parents but I am urging you to consider if you really have no choice but to send your children into school. As year groups become overcrowded, please don't be offended if we telephone you to ask if both parents are key workers and if there is a possibility of you keeping your child at home to provide space for a vulnerable child.

I would like to thank the teaching staff for the speed at which they have responded to the requirement for remote learning and to yourselves for the positive comments we have received about the quality of the offer. The children who are learning at home are an important part of the class and we are keen that they don't feel excluded or disadvantaged - the work that is delivered in school is the same as is being emailed home and we are investigating other ways that we can keep in touch. If you are unable to access the year group email or Seesaw, please get in touch with the school office as, for safeguarding purposes, we will contact you by telephone (these calls may have no Caller ID) if we have not had any contact with your family.

There have been a couple of parents that have asked about the possibility of producing live lessons; this is something that we have discussed but have decided against, mainly following feedback from parents with children at other schools that have experienced it. Every family is in a different situation - some have children in several classes and would find accessing lessons simultaneously impossible due to sharing devices, issues with younger siblings interrupting the learning as well as the reality of managing a class in school whilst the live lesson is taking place. By using pre-recorded lessons your child can complete their work at their own pace, repeat sections that they may have found more difficult and at a time that suits your own work commitments.

Teachers have commented that where remote learning is working most effectively is with the children and parents that are making good use of Seesaw (please use the year group email if you are having difficulty logging on). Please don't feel that you need to upload every piece of work, but it also gives the opportunity for further questions and support. Please be aware that your child's class teacher may be delivering the activities in school and it will be the year group partner that will be commenting. As there are up to 60 children in a year group, not every piece of work will be commented on or marked but everything is definitely being looked at and appreciated. Also, don't forget Mathletics and TT Rockstars which are great online resources that your child can access independently and can earn them points towards being awarded Mathlete of the Week! Please keep feeding back with aspects that are working well or not so well - we are all learning together.

Other news - children in Early Years and KS1 may bring a small, healthy snack to eat at the mid-morning break, as the government free fruit deliveries have been suspended during school closure. Please put this in a labelled bag/box which can be stored with their water bottle until needed.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and let's keep our fingers crossed for no more snow next week.

Best wishes

Mrs Buckton

Headteacher

## **Stars of the Week**



As there are now some children attending school and others home learning, there will be two sets of Stars to recognise and celebrate the achievements of both groups of children:

**In School Stars** - are selected by the teacher who has been in class in your child's year group 'bubble'

**At Home Stars** - are chosen by the teacher from your child's year group who has been supporting and engaging with children on Tapestry and Seesaw

The Stars this week are.....

### **In School Stars**

**Gold** class - Neve for sharing toys nicely with other children and Hugo B for settling in to his extra hours so well

**Rainbow** class - Dexter for listening well to Goldilocks, Rocco who has been a lovely friend this week and Wren for a brilliant last week

**FS2 (Reception)** bubble - The children have adapted brilliantly to a different routine this week. We are so proud of them. We have made new friends and learnt some new sounds in phonics. This morning, we investigated the snow in the quadrangle!

**Year 1** bubble - All the children as they have settled very well and had both a fun and educational week on a winter theme - perfect with the weather!

**Year 2** bubble - A big well done to all of the children in year 2 for settling in so well to our slightly different routine. We are really proud of your positive attitude towards all of your work!

**Year 3** bubble - All the children for a really fun week learning all about the Egyptians

**Year 4** bubble - Well done Year 4. You have worked really hard this week and shared some fantastic work in RE. You have shown great resilience on the problem-solving parts of the maths and I am really pleased to see all the hard work that has gone into story-mapping Beowulf.

**Year 5** bubble - All of Year 5 for a great start to the new routines this week.

**Year 6** bubble - Mr Ward and Miss Parry would like to say a huge 'well done' to all of the children who have been working hard, both at home and in school. They have been incredibly impressed with the focus and determination shown by everyone.

### **At Home Stars**

**FS2 (Reception)** - A huge well done to all of the children (and parents!) at home this week. We have seen some brilliant weighing skills and lots of children investigating capacity by filling different cup sizes at home. It has been lovely reading your sentences about what you did in the holidays. Look out for next week's learning... there might be a crime mystery for you to solve on Tapestry!

**Year 1** - Well done to all the children for their efforts with the home learning.

**Year 2** - We are proud of how the children and parents have once again engaged in home learning. Thank you for all your hard work and enthusiasm!

**Year 3** - Well done to all the children in Year 3 that have been working from home this week. You have produced some fantastic work and you should be very proud of yourselves.

**Year 4** - Well done Year 4 for working so hard at home this week, we are pleased you are enjoying the start of our Beowulf work and we have been really impressed with your Anglo-Saxon brooch designs.

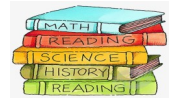
**Year 5** - All of Year 5 for a great start to the new routines this week.

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Well Done everyone, both at home and in school, keep up the good work!

## Home Learning

For those parents who have children home learning, please be assured that we are still here for you! There is a teacher from every year group allocated to supporting the children learning from home so please do contact them.



**Tapestry and Seesaw** - Remember to keep using these regularly so you can access the work, challenges and activities set by teachers and to upload videos and photo's of what you have been doing. Teachers are always keen to see your work and creations.

**Year group email address** - To contact teaching staff directly you can use the year group emails. The email format is: gps-staff-FS2@guiseleyprimary.org (or instead of FS2 use Y1, Y2 etc)

### Leeds City Council Support for Parents

#### Child Friendly Leeds

Use the link below for a guide of useful information, key websites and lots of fun and creative ways to keep busy during lockdown! It also includes tips for wellbeing.

<https://childfriendlyleeds.wordpress.com/2020/04/15/5350/>

Also follow @Child\_Leeds on Twitter for more!

#### Leeds Libraries From Home

Join the Library - Use this link for lots of information on available resources and details of how to join

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/online-library>

If you are having issues with joining contact libraryenquiries@leeds.gov.uk or 0113 378 5005

**Borrowbox** - Browse our eBooks and eAudio books for children and young people, which includes a selection of titles that can be downloaded by multiple people at the same time. We are constantly adding new titles. We also have over 19,000 Comics and graphic novels - suitable for all ages, available for you to borrow.

### Wellbeing and Safeguarding

If you are feeling overwhelmed and need someone to talk to, there are people you can call on for support including:



**Samaritans** - confidential support for people feeling of distressed or in despair. Phone 116 123 (free 24 hour helpline) or visit [www.samaritans.org.uk](http://www.samaritans.org.uk)

**YoungMinds** - a children's mental health charity. Phone 0808 802 5544 (Mon to Fri 9:30am-4:00pm) or visit [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

#### Safeguarding, child protection, domestic violence -

If you have concerns about any of these, please seek help as soon as possible.

You can contact school, the children centre or any of the organisations on the school website including the Leeds Domestic Violence Service <https://ldvs.uk/>

### Financial Support

**Free school meals** - If your child is eligible for free school meals, they can receive a weekly food hamper which include items such as bread, potatoes, fruit, beans, tuna, yoghurts etc. The hamper can be delivered to home by a member of school staff or collected from school. If you would like to receive the weekly food hamper please contact school.



**Leeds City Council Benefit Claim Form** - If you think your child may now be eligible for free school meals, please use the online claim form <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Benefitclaimform.pdf>

**Families in difficulty** - Aireborough Children Centre has access to support for families. They can be contacted by email [office@aireboroughcc.org.uk](mailto:office@aireboroughcc.org.uk), telephone 01943 874100, or visit the website [www.guiseleychildrencentre.co.uk](http://www.guiseleychildrencentre.co.uk)

Please keep checking the Covid-19 section of the school website [www.guiseleyprimary.org](http://www.guiseleyprimary.org) for updates from the Government and links to support agencies as well as additional ideas for home learning.

**Leeds City Council COVID Helpline** - can provide lots of support and advice during this time. The helpline can be contacted on 0113 378 1877.