



# Weekly Newsletter

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January

Discussion of the Week

*"What does uneventful mean?"*

## Birthday of the Week



Who is this for next Monday's assembly?

**1850 - 1912**

It has been another busy week with children learning at home and in school this week. It has been great to see how many of you are managing to engage with the learning that is being shared on Tapestry/Google Classroom. The expectations of how much work is set are guided by the government. It is expected that we ensure there is a broad and balanced range of activities covering the whole curriculum, enabling children to learn new things. As a parent too, I am acutely aware of how difficult it is to work, look after your families, manage your own lives and ensure your children are completing their work and submitting it. I also know that not all children focus in the same way on their learning when they are at home. Please be reassured that if you are not completing everything, this is ok. As last time, it remains essential that children are healthy and happy, ready for school to open up again as normal. As it stands, following the prime minister speaking in parliament this Wednesday, schools will now not open before 8<sup>th</sup> March. Whilst it is expected this time that children engage with learning, please communicate with us if there is anything that we can do to try to help.

Thank you to all of the children who made comments on the Loom assembly video last Monday. It was great to be able to share the wide range of celebrations with you all. There were a few times walking around school on Monday where my voice was drifting out of classrooms, which was very strange for me!

There have been some observations fed back to me this week with regard to the Google Meet calls. Please can you ensure that you are following our shared agreement, which is designed to ensure that children's safety is a priority. These should not be recorded in any way – including screenshots of the Google Meet calls. Things like this are easily shared on social media sites. If this happens, we cannot safeguard children's images if they are being shared publicly. Additionally, if children have other devices such as their own mobile phones, please can you ensure that they are not messaging each other during the calls. Thank you for your help with enabling the Google Meet calls to take place as safely as we need them to. If you need a copy of this agreement that was sent to you by email on 12<sup>th</sup> January, please let the office know and we can make one available to you.

### Lateral Flow testing

As of this week, all staff in primary schools are invited to participate in a twice weekly Lateral Flow test programme. This test is designed to screen for people who are asymptomatic, therefore passing on the virus without knowing they have it. This is part of the government programme to break the chain of transmission and is underway already here.

## Merits

**Silver (20)** - Gabriel (Y6) & Jensen (Y2)

**Gold (30)** - Rosie (Y6)

**Ruby (40)** – Oliver P (Y4)

**Sapphire (50)** – Gracie (Y5)

**Diamond (60)** - Dallas (Y6)

**Opal (70)** – Aiden (Y5)

**Granite (90)** - Pippa (Y6) & Dillion (Y5)

**Platinum (110)** - Lucas (Y6)

**Jade (130)** - Holly (Y6)

## 10 Golden Tickets

### Acorns

Arron, Sophia-Louise, Jordan, Ava-Marie, Lily

### Conkers

Chloe & Conner

### Pinecones

Denise

**Well done everyone.**

**We are proud of all of you!**

## **Feedback on home learning**

There has already been a fantastic return of surveys, even though the deadline for this is Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February. We are reading each and every one and will endeavour to turn all of the suggestions as much as we can into solutions. So far, from your suggestions, we are recommending to staff from next week to try to provide a balance of screen activities with more art/craft/practical activities. We will also remove from our system any deadlines so that you should no longer get 'late' messages for example. Our teaching videos and/or communication from staff on live calls will also have more clear expectations about how long children should ideally spend on each step. We hope this will help to address some of the broad themes we have seen from the first batch of responses.

It is tricky though when some feedback opposes that of others. For example, there are a small number of people who have asked for more work as it is felt there is not enough, whereas many of you have said you feel it is the right balance, and others who have asked for there not to be more.

I would like to thank those of you who have shared positive comments and made suggestions so positively, which has been great to share with colleagues who are working incredibly hard to do their best for your children. We are really grateful for these positive comments and your appreciation. As I have said before, we don't assume that we have got it right first time, and want to work with you all to make adjustments that will help to address any gaps that there are. In next week's newsletter, I will outline the summary of the key aspects of the feedback and how we will be planning to make any changes. Please be reassured that we will maintain our focus on endeavouring to ensure that the children in learning in school and at home are getting the same opportunities. We will also continue to try to seek the balance of online support that is flexible and adaptable for the individual circumstances of as many of you as we can.

## **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February – INSET**

This is one of the planned staff training days. We want to maintain this as a professional day closure as the date has been set in advance. As such, the last day of the school half term for children attending school will be Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February. There will be no remote learning provided for children on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Oxford Reading Tree books**

There is a useful link to this free e-book library if you need some variety with books and reading.  
<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks/>

We are still very happy to have you come and change guided reading books too. Please call the office if you want to do this so that we can minimise visiting numbers at school.

## **Parent and family support**

Attached with the newsletter today are two flyers. One is for the service which is being provided for parents and schools by the Hampshire Education Psychology service. If you have concerns about your child or your family's mental health and wellbeing, this is a useful resource to explore. Also, there is a leaflet to support you if you have a child who is anxious or who has worries, with tips for how you can help. As always, please get in touch if you need to talk to us about anything. Mrs Sellars is also always happy to help and support. Please drop her a line on [thehaven@kingsapp.co.uk](mailto:thehaven@kingsapp.co.uk) *Hayley Ferguson and the whole team at Kings Copse*