

The year has clearly started in even more challenging circumstances than we left last term, particularly in terms of increased COVID-19 transmission risk and the implications for families supporting many children at home with their learning. We hope you are managing to stay well and if you need help or support, please contact us.

Welcome to new Pre-school children and families!

Our school, although not all children in school, has now grown to 399 children. Many new children have joined our Pre-school, in either Acorn or Apple class. Here they are settling in and making new friends.



PTA & Community donations

The PTA and members of our community have donated funds or purchased items on our Amazon Wishlist. The recent *wishlist* included Amazon Fire 7 tablets, headphones and protective cases and we now have 6 devices we are preparing to loan out to families during this time. Thank you!

Term 2 Whole School Survey

We know that we indicated at the end of term following our late December survey, we would share any broad updates on whole school developments. As you will appreciate we have not managed to address you with any development yet, given the significant changes in this past week. We will aim to share full response in the next few weeks.

All children should be accessing learning

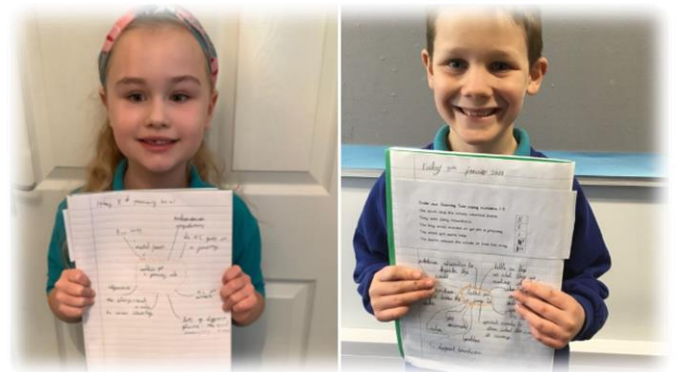
Please note that all children should be accessing learning either online or in-school and attendance is a government reportable requirement.

Home learners via Teams with our Online Teachers!

It's great to receive so much positivity regarding the online learning offer we are providing many children. The teaching online via Teams led by our teachers is significantly better and more teacher-led than our offer last March in the first Lockdown.

Well done to all our teachers! Like many of you have recognised, the teachers were able to switch to live lessons by 10:30 am the night after the government announcement last Monday. By Thursday last week, we switched to offer either live lessons online and a teacher in school to lead learning for children of critical workers.

This tweet from Year 2 Elm class sums up the experience of a quality online offer:



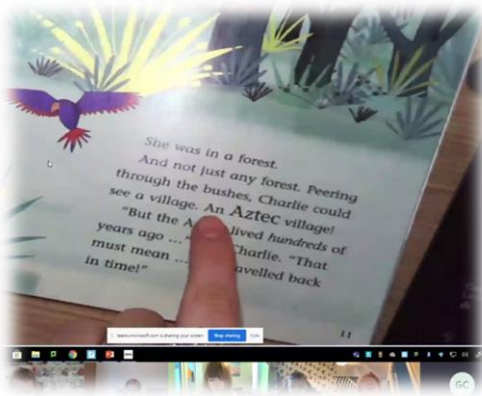
"Our online learners and our face-face learners are working so hard to follow the same lessons. From looking at your work, we can't tell who was working at home and who was not! What do you think?"



Reception children in uniform, ready to learn and joining in with Miss Hall.



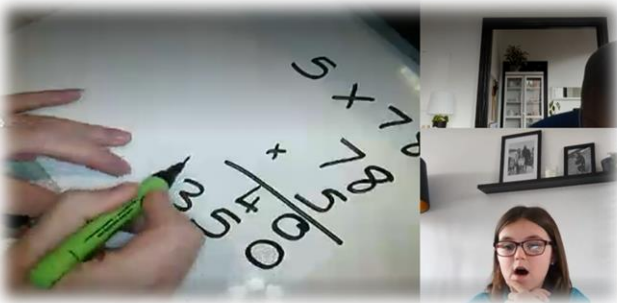
Year 1 with Mr Rees were up and out of their seats learning some mindfulness techniques.



Miss Crisp in Year 2 teaching reading using a visualiser with many children joining in as they usually would if in class.



Mr Allen shares another end-of-day story with the children in Year 3.



Mrs Howe models a calculation method in Year 4.



Our teachers remain online and 'on the call' as children solve problems independently with the options to ask for further help.

Feedback this weekend please...

At the end of the week, we will send a short survey for your feedback from the online learning. These surveys always serve as a wonderful opportunity to praise our whole staff team, even if you have done so previously. However, after several days of home learning via Teams, we are keen to have as many views as possible to balance our decisions should we make any adjustments.

Keep up the regular home reading – Bug Club

Regular short (5-10 minutes) daily reading will help your child with their word recognition, fluency and understanding. If your child is attending school, we will change their books. For our online learners, you can access Bug Club and teachers are allocating books at the right level. If you have forgotten your log in, it is on the passwords letter we sent out earlier in the year or you can call or email the school office.

Access Bugclub via <https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0>, use your child's details and the school code is: JHSC

Extending data for families to support home learning

The DfE has stated that many mobile networks have agreed to extend data packages for free for some families as detailed <https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data> If families meet the criteria below, please contact us and we can support the application for increases in data allowances:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Childcare bubbles

Childcare bubbles are permitted so that two families can link to support each other with remote learning and childcare. This may be an option for some of you to enable your child to access learning alongside one other child. No adults can enter the other home.

Part-time reduces the risk of COVID-19 spreading

We would like critical working parents to review that if they can keep their child at home for some days because they are part-time and access online learning, this supports the current urgency to suppress the virus spreading and safeguards our staff and families in the community.

Pre-school parents – Apply for a Reception school place for next year (2021-22) deadline this Friday 15th

Pre-school parents should not miss the deadline of Friday 15th January to register your child for a school reception place for this September. If your child will be 4 years old after 31st August, parents will need to have applied for a school place at North Somerset Council's website <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/school-admissions/applying-school-place> or <https://tinyurl.com/yynpj974> If you attend HVA Pre-school, you must apply on time, otherwise you will not secure a school place for your child.

Let's all help others to stay well by being safe.

Mr Jones

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