

Weekly Newsletter



15th January 2021

Wellbeing in the Community

I cannot imagine how difficult it must be – once again – for you parents, many of whom I have spoken to, who are trying to juggle your work responsibilities either by yourself or with a partner, as well as educate your child/multiple children at home...and this is alongside the anxieties and loss of which COVID has brought about in our community. You are never alone. If I, or the school, can help you in anyway: a chat, resources, signposting services, for example, just pick up the phone, or email me directly and we'll do our best to help: Head@earith.cambs.sch.uk

Spotlight on Staff: Teachers

I am exceptionally proud of the Teaching Team here at school. The quality of the videos being produced; the differentiation of the work; the availability of teachers in providing ongoing feedback and support to our pupils – not to mention those wellbeing calls in the morning – via Google Classrooms has been a joy to observe. Parents: thank you so much with pushing and persevering with Google Classrooms.

Spotlight on Staff: Teaching Assistants

Our Teaching Assistants are leading the bubbles in each class. I wish I could say it was as simple as logging into Google Classrooms and following the work. There's all the extra things that are thrown into any ordinary school day, on top of their newly-acquired roles. Normally, one might say something like how well the children have 'coped' with this, but they haven't, they have 'thrived' – happy to be in school and happy to learn with their peers. Thank you to all of our Teaching Assistants for their continued hard work.

Pupil Wellbeing

We are a school that actively promotes outdoor learning and physical exercise. With this in mind, I am increasingly conscious of the amount of screen time we are asking of pupils and I am sure you are, too. So with this in mind, I do hope you are able to find quality time as a family of a weekend, or during the week to engage together in outdoor exercise, PE and generally enjoy extra-curricular activities to support their, and your own, wellbeing at home! As I have stated in my opening paragraph, I will always make myself available to any one of our pupils if they want to chat to me or have a catch-up via Google Classrooms. Week 2 and I already miss them all!

Testing for Staff

We are due to be sent home testing kits for staff to use on a Monday before entry to the school. More information on this to follow but we hope that this will further mitigate the risk in school.

Message from Mrs Lawrence:

Banksy Class have really got to grips with online learning this week and I've enjoyed talking to them on Meet and looking at all the excellent work they have been producing. This week, in English, we have been continuing to read 'King Kong' and we have been writing short scenes for the book. We have recapped on how to write dialogue and have written tension scenes, as well as descriptive passages. In maths, we have had the challenge of finding missing angles on straight lines, full turns and in shapes. We've had to use our calculating skills as well as mathematically reason. In art, we have looked closely at the art of Anthony Browne and made collages of our favourite pieces. We have also produced fact-files about his life and work through independent research.

Message from Mrs Barber:

Dali class have been learning lots about recycling. In science, we found out which materials can be recycled and why it is important to look after our planet by reducing waste. We have been wonderful writers in English, producing top tips, labelled pictures, questions, word games and headings for our magazine pages. Whether we are learning at school or at home, we come together in our morning Welcome Chats - it brightens our day to be able to see our friends and share our news. In Maths, we have been learning about 2D shape and tallying the shapes that we found around us. We also made our bird feeders from recycled materials and look forward to hanging these up at home! What a busy week it has been!

Message from Mrs Nicholls:

This week the children in Picasso have continued their work based on The Magic Paintbrush. They have listened carefully to the story and identified the rhyming words. In maths the children have been looking at doubles. Firstly going on a double hunt to see what doubles can be found in the environment – egg boxes, dominoes and Lego pieces were a popular find. Later they used their knowledge of doubles and near doubles to identify patterns and complete addition calculations. In science the children continued their work on materials, searching for items made from plastic, metal, fabric, wood or glass. There were some lovely observational drawings of these objects.

Message from Mrs Hopley:

In Geography we found out that the world is split into seven parts known as the continents. We named each continent and the children found out some interesting facts. Did you know there are almost 200 countries in the world?

In Art we explored the primary colours in different ways. Some children collected items from all around the house to represent the primary colours. Others used paints or felt tips and some even found out how to make secondary colours.

Please see updated Privacy Notices on the website

<https://www.earith.cambs.sch.uk/index.php/school/policies>

New Attendance Letters:

Well done to the fifty plus children who received a 100% attendance letter from the Autumn Term from me, and to those parents of children with improved attendance. Excellent.

Current Occupancy Levels

Approximately 39% of the school population are in at present – this varies from day-to-day dependant upon the days in which parents need provision for. We want to thank parents for just using us when you need us, and where possible, staying at home and saving lives. Your children have been excellent ambassadors for our school.

Laptops

Thank you to the parents and members of the community that have leant us – and in one case – purchased us a laptop to loan out to our children. We really appreciate your support, especially as we are still waiting on the ones promised by the DFE!

Please continue to inform us of any issues with the laptops we have leant out or make us aware if you are desperate for a device. We are still trying to procure as many as we can to better support you at home.

Commitment to The Virtual Learning Offer

I am committed to providing Professional Development during staff meetings over the coming weeks to things which will only strengthen Teaching & Learning of our online offer. We want to build-on and sustain the positive start we have made in order to engage our pupils.

Keep up the hard work, All. The school is proud of you.

A while back, we put out some information regarding how we need parent governors and didn't have much of a response. So many of you parents are more than capable of performing this role. You always give me such great feedback: good, bad and indifferent, and you know I encourage it – it helps our school grow. We all want the same thing: better outcomes for our children. Email me if you are interested. If I don't hear from you in the next week, I might be catching you in person!

Be a School Governor



The school is delighted to say it was successful in its bid to receive some extra money (£250) from the Siobhan Dowd Trust to spend on new books. Marilyn Brocklehurst (Norfolk Children's Book Centre) sent us an approved box of *quality* fiction, including many contemporary bestsellers. Each of the children currently in school were excited to be able to take one of these home to read, but don't worry children at home, they are bringing them back to school so they'll be here when you return! Excellent.



Google Meet expectations

When using Google Meet, we want to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to hear the teacher and speak during sessions. To do this, we will need to ask that when your child logs into a Google Meet session can they;

- Mute the microphone.
- Turn the camera on.

It is important that a parent is also available nearby, whilst your child is taking part in a Google Meet session. This allows support for any technical issues and also provides some support for those children who may find communicating through technology difficult. During a Google Meet session, we love to hear from the children, whether to answer or ask questions, as well as to give an update on how they are doing. Unfortunately, it can become difficult to manage if too many children are doing this at once. Therefore, if your child would like to ask a question, they can use the Google Meet 'raise hand' symbol. This symbol will flash up on screen so the teacher knows they have something to contribute. This allows us to provide opportunities for all children's questions to be answered.

If you are unsure of any of the buttons for these functions, please see below.

Button	Function
	This is the microphone button. If the symbol is white, it means the microphone is on. We would like all children's microphones to be muted, unless they are asking or answering a question. When the symbol is red and has a line through it, it means the microphone is muted.
	This is the camera button. We would like all children's cameras to be on if possible.
 	This is the raise hand button. Once pressed, it will turn green and the writing will change. If your child has a question during the Google Meet session, if they press this button the teacher will respond to them when appropriate.
	This button is to leave the meeting.

Please see Sid The Cygnet on his website page

<https://www.earith.cambs.sch.uk/index.php/sid-the-cygnnet>

Also the weekly Award Assembly

<https://www.earith.cambs.sch.uk/index.php/coronavirus/assemblies>

