



The Mill Messenger



National Support School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership



Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Nearly at another weekend, although I'd imagine for many of you the weekdays and the weekends have rather merged into one at the moment! As always, we are thinking of you all.

What you told us last week and what we've done about it:

PE

Live PE sessions will be happening with Mr Tyers or Mr Eagle for all key stages. Please look out for these in your child's classroom, as well as the PE challenges set each week. In school PE will be happening as usual.

Where to find everything!

Our 'one stop shop' for information about our remote learning offer is on our website [here](#), where you can also find a schedule for all live sessions for the week.

Feedback and length of sessions

Teachers have reduced the amount of time they are expecting your child to focus on screen, so sessions (recorded and live) have become even more short and snappy. But where needed, more time is spent live discussing and feeding back-especially in the workshops.

Hand in dates on the classrooms

We hope we have managed to make these more accessible/achievable. Please tell us if not!

My week started off with joining Reception for storytime: Worrysaurus. It was a great opportunity for adults and children to talk about Worrysaurus' feelings and a safe way to discuss how much the character worries and feels anxious, leading onto what we can do when we might feel this way. Some of the children had their own copy of the book and joined in. Miss Brown shared ideas about what you can do at home to create 'happy feelings' bags and boxes to help your child. Do contact the team if you would like some advice.

I joined Year 5's Forever Proud assembly and as always, they kept us all and each other entertained with their news and what they had been making that week. Year 5 have created a gratitude jamboard and it is really wonderful to see the kindnesses they are recording on there. Some year groups are starting to theme their assemblies to give them a focus which is also great fun. Year 5 have 'would you rather' coming up...

We had some support from our phonics providers this week, and Miss Parkinson will be meeting with Early Years, Year 1 and 2 teams to feedback on the tweaks we can make to ensure we are reaching all of our early readers. The feedback was very positive, but we took some time to reflect about how we can improve our offer further. With that in mind, please do respond to our parent questionnaire that will be sent to you, one of the questions asks you how many sessions you are managing to complete each week. It's not a test, we promise! We just want to see how many sessions you and your child are engaging with in phonics.

I joined Year 6's writing workshop this week and it was really interesting to see the children either joining in verbally, or writing their thoughts in the chat bar. It made me reflect on how many great ideas our writers have and also, how many ways do we normally give them a chance to respond beyond telling us out loud? Some children prefer quietly writing their thoughts down. As always, high quality vocabulary and high expectations from the pupils. Mr Fenton gave a gentle reminder about how much you are capable of Year 6, remember, we have your blue writing books in school and we know what your best looks like! We also know, it's a bit different at home and you are doing great.

Room 13 - from Janey

Lots of fun and chats in Room 13 today as nine Year 3 children joined me to make 'Power Bandages' (see image), featuring the things that are keeping them strong and supported in lockdown. The bandages are secretly magic and when they wear them they'll feel a little better.



Weekly Reflections

We have started 'Weekly Reflection' sheets for each year group so that they can tell us what worked well, what they would like to adapt and also to look at the numbers of pupils engaging in each task.

Here is an overall summary:

Highest engagement has been in the Maths deliberate practice/Fluent 5 tasks and Stop Grammar Time. Teachers reflected that this is because the tasks are quick, accessible and children can get a swift response on how they did.

Storytimes are a favourite.

Children are preferring quizzes with multiple choice options.

Parents are appreciating 'reminders' in the live sessions about what's coming up in the week.

Parents feel a bit more nervous/unclear about the Science tasks, so the uptake is slightly lower - but don't worry, we can help!

Time away from the screen and keeping mentally well

Miss Plant and I have asked in the [latest parent questionnaire](#) how you would feel about us timetabling some time away from the screen in your child's learning week. We don't want to reduce what we are offering, but we DO want your child to have some down time and to ease the pressure on you too. During a normal school week, children have playtimes, lunch play plus all the wider subject experiences that home learning does not always make possible, but that give our brains a chance to unwind. For the next few weeks, expect us to start looking for ways to help find some balance between being 'online' and 'offline' and don't worry - those of you with children in school will also have some time too that the teachers will plan in.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated by the whole team. From all of us, have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sophie Gosden".

Sophie Gosden
Headteacher