



Godolphin Primary School
'living, learning and laughing together'

Newsletter Issue 18
29/01/2021

Newsletter available on our website

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have continued to be impressed by the remote education taking place this week. It is wonderful to see the quality of the work the children are submitting and I have enjoyed joining some of the Google Meets.

February half-term:

This week we have had confirmation from the DFE that schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week. Remote Education will cease for the half-term and will start again on Monday 22nd February.

The government will also continue to provide support for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals through the national voucher scheme or lunch parcels to those learning at home during term time next half-term. Support will also be available during the half-term holiday for vulnerable families through the Covid Winter Grant Scheme (See details overleaf). Tesco vouchers will be provided for FSM pupils over the half-term break.

Contact tracing over the February half-term:

Schools continue to play an important role in contact tracing for those pupils and staff who continue to attend their school.

Where pupils or staff still attending their school test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) during the holidays, having developed

symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, schools are not required to take any action. Staff, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. However, where pupils or staff still attending their school test positive having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. Parents are asked to email Mrs. Wandless if this happens during the half-term (head@godolphin.cornwall.sch.uk).

Reopening of Schools:

I know there was some speculation about whether schools would be re-opening after half term. In his statement to the House of Commons on Wednesday the Prime Minister has said that he is hopeful that it could happen from the 8th March but this is not a confirmed date, and there is as yet no detail on the proposed 'road map' for return. All school leaders know at this current time is that we will be given two weeks' notice of before schools reopen. We will obviously keep you informed, however, we often find out at the same time as public announcements are made.

As always, please let us know if there is anything further we can do.

Take care and please keep yourselves safe.

Lucy Wandless.

Big Garden Bird Watch:

Big Garden Birdwatch is a great way to boost your mood this weekend. Everyone can take part for free, whether you're a novice birdwatcher, or a seasoned pro.

When you join the RSPB, we'll help lift your spirits throughout the year by getting you closer to the nature on your doorstep and beyond.

Covid Winter Grant:

Many families are facing financial hardship due to the impact of the pandemic and many are struggling to put food on the table, stay warm, and buy essentials. Cornwall Council has secured a government grant to provide additional financial and practical help to our families.

The Covid Winter Grant can be used to provide financial help to any households who are facing financial hardship and who would benefit from this support.

The fund is £1.8 million from central government and 80% of the cash will go towards families with children while the remaining money will go to other households struggling because of the pandemic.

Over £650,000 of this funding has already been allocated towards funding Free School Meals provision during the Christmas holiday period and February Half Term.

The conditions of the grant specify that financial help can be given in the following areas:

1. Food
2. Energy and water bills for household purposes (including drinking, washing, cooking, central heating, and sanitary purposes) and sewerage.
3. Other essentials (including sanitary products, warm clothing, soap, blankets, boiler service/repair, purchase of equipment including fridges, freezers, ovens, etc.)

To apply for the Covid Winter Grant, please use the contact information below.

- For items relating to home heating such as fuel bills or breakdown in heating equipment such as oil tanks or boiler repair please contact Community Energy Plus by emailing advice@cep.org.uk or phoning 0800 954 1956.
- For help with food and other essential household items visit our website here: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/advice-and-benefits/benefits/crisis-and-care-awards/>

Children's Mental Health Week :



Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on 1-7 February 2021.

To help keep families active and off their screens for a while, Sustrans have prepared some free, fun, easy-to-use resources. These activities will be shared each day in the Google Classrooms. We hope you find them fun and worthwhile.

Orienteering:

If anyone would like to try something different for their daily exercise, why not visit the British Orienteering website for some fantastic activity ideas?

www.britishorienteering.org.uk/Get_Active

The website provides a wide range of indoor and outdoor games and activities, with helpful videos and useful resources.

The activities will also enable you to improve your map skills and puzzle solving.

Fitter Future:

Great news! The school has re-subscribed to www.fitterfuture.com.

The site provides short video exercise workouts and mindfulness activities which can be accessed from any device at home or in school using your unique login details. These will be posted to your child via Google Classrooms.

We hope you take advantage of these fun and motivating materials!

Songfest 21:



Due to Covid-19, Songfest has made the songs available for all children in KS2. We have therefore uploaded the songs onto the Zircon and Diamond Google Classrooms for all children to view and learn.

At some point in a few weeks there will be a live online performance which you can all join. Further information about this will be sent in due course.

Diamond Class Update:

We have seen another week of great work from the Diamond class. Many of us enjoyed our music lessons, learning about pulse with Mr Palekar and a very catchy song about a peanut!

We have been building on the social and emotional aspects of oracy through a range of activities during our Google meetings: developing confidence in speaking, listening actively and responding appropriately. We played charades, discussed a Would You Rather? question explaining and justifying our choice, and had fun sharing jokes.

We were also treated to some wonderful story reading this week with many of the children sharing their favourite stories. They read clearly with great intonation, confidence and obvious enjoyment for reading.

Congratulations to Summer who received her pen licence this week!



Emerald Class Update:

Emeralds have had another busy week working very hard and producing some lovely work.

They have been focussing on information and explanation texts along with lots of learning about mass and length.

Our Google Meets are going well with the children being keen to read stories 'live' at the meetings - those who have read this week have chosen their stories carefully, thinking about the audience and have read with expression and fluency. We have enjoyed listening to them!

Zircon Class Update:

It's been another busy week for the Zircon pupils who have enjoyed a fun-packed and varied timetable.

Lesson highlights have included some excellent maths work on shape, measures and statistics; the completion of non-chronological reports about tigers and pandas; creative writing about a mischievous pigeon and a second art lesson looking at the proportions and positioning of facial features.

February Fitness Challenge!

We would like to encourage all our children to get fully involved with our February Fitness Challenge, starting on Monday 1st February.

Each day, for the entire month, we would like you to record your physical activity on your child's record sheet which can be found in their Google Classrooms. All forms of exercise count and can include anything from running, cycling and walking, to ball sports, exercise workouts, yoga and dancing. If it's raising your heartrate, write it down!

For every 15 minutes of exercise achieved, you will earn your class a reward of '1 mile'. So, for an hour of exercise, your reward will be '4 miles'! The aim is to see how many miles you can obtain by the 28th February.

As well as earning miles for yourself, you will also be contributing to your class totals. The class with the highest combined distance (miles) wins! I wonder how far we can go?

To make things even more interesting, the staff will be keeping a record of their own activity. These miles will then be added to the class total distances. Time to dig out those old trainers or yoga mat!

We hope that you will fully support this challenge and encourage your child to get up and move!

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Snook who will be happy to help.