



stockbridge

Primary and Pre-school



Newsletter 8

6 October 2020

Lockdown, what lockdown?!

Whilst the rest of the country and business sectors have locked down this week, we have been going strong! Children are already back into their learning and new topics, reading books are being changed faster than I can keep up with scanning them back into the system and we are firing on all cylinders!

At our INSET training on Monday, staff all shared 2 stars and a wish for this term. We all wished for a COVID-free half term and consistency for the children's learning. I couldn't agree more. I am sure you're all hoping for the same.

Early Years will be learning all about fire and flint this term as well as the Christmas story using 'The Jolly Postman' book to help them.

Lower School (Years 1-3) are learning all about Victorian schools and how life in schools is different then and now as well as around the world. They'll be searching answers for "Is life fair?"

Upper School (Years 4-6) are already in the throes of Macbeth in their 'Lights, Camera, Action' topic. They'll be answering the big question 'What entertains us?'

Emma Jefferies, Headteacher



I've been filming short clips this week for our 'Open Day' virtual tour and took these beautiful shots of children playing & discovering beautifully outside.



Coming Up!

Every newsletter, we publish the key events coming up for children in our school for the forthcoming fortnight – this is the bit to pin to your fridge!

Mon 9 th – Fri 13 th		Please take time this week to rewatch the video from the teacher(s) of your child's class(es) about their learning this half term and what they need to achieve by December. It's on your child's google classroom pages.
Tues 10 th	3.15pm	Details home about parent's evening & how to book
Wed 11 th	11am	4 children visiting laying wreath at War Memorial to mark Remembrance Day
		MOTTISFONT class in forest school all day – wrap up!
Fri 13 th	By 3.15pm	Cross Country results in
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Mon 16 th – Wed 18 th		Remote Parents evening consultations

Marathon money

Your child should have brought home a slip of paper with their marathon distance on so that you know how far they ran in case they were sponsored by the mile or metre. Please ensure all monies are in school by Thurs 12 Nov.

Cheques can be made payable to HCC or make a 'donation' on Scopay.

- Log in & go to 'Trips & Events'
- Find the 'Virgin Marathon' event
- Enter the amount you want to pay
- Job done!

We can still take cash if this is easier.



Music in school

NEXT week's artist is **The Kingdom Choir**

We're so excited to introduce this amazing choir to the children. The Kingdom Choir sang at Harry & Meghan's wedding and will be the first professional choir the children have been exposed to this year in our 'musician of the week'. We'll let you know which tracks we loved next week.



Homework

I know, you're over home learning! I don't blame you! As a school, we have a fairly 'light' policy on homework for many reasons – we do ask you however to do the stuff that really counts and that we just can't do enough of in school.

School are pouring thousands of pounds into small class sizes and extra adults to help children catch up in their individual year groups and we have clear expectations for catch up this half term so I thought it would be timely to lay out what we expect children to do for homework:

ALL children should...

Read with an adult at least 4 times a week – yes, this even includes Years 5 & 6! If these older children don't read aloud, the more complex vocabulary will be misunderstood, misread and they will lose all sense of meaning.

Do 4 spelling journal activities each week linked to spellings in their book. Their books should go between home and school each day. Years 3-6 need to complete their read & respond each week in their reading journal.

Year 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 should also...

Log on and spend 20 mins in Garage in TTRockStars (see opposite)

Years 4, 5 & 6 should also...

Complete activities from their independent topic homework set on Google classroom. This is available from today and should be in in the last week of the half term.
Year 4 need to do 2 activities
Year 5 need to do 3 activities
Year 6 need to do 4 activities at least!

Parent's Evening

All of our carefully laid plans were scuppered slightly by COVID closures and partial opening. Given the current lockdown restrictions, I don't feel it's sensible or in the spirit of the lockdown to hold face to face, in person meetings.

We will be holding our meetings virtually using a company who are specialists in this and come highly recommended from other schools. You will be able to book a slot online and then log in on the day, at your time and be connected to your child's class teacher virtually.

More details will be out next Tuesday in readiness for parent's evening slots on Monday 16th, Tuesday 17th or Wednesday 18th.



In school, we have a huge focus this term on learning our times tables that are appropriate for each year group. Times Tables Rock Stars is the way to practice this at home and a central part of the core homework we ask children to do every week.

We have relaunched Times Tables Rockstars as it develops the children's understanding and links between multiplication and division facts, while building their confidence and speed of recall.

Children from Y2 upwards should log on to the 'garage' section, at least three times a week for 20 minutes. We will do an additional session in school. We can track how many times they log on for and for how long and we can also check their speed is increasing.

We have also now set this area to 'automatic training' which will ensure that all the appropriate times tables for your child's year group are secure with quick recall speeds and that any gaps in times table knowledge are sufficiently addressed before they move on. These means that any previous targets are now reset and that your child will work their way through the times tables, building their confidence and speed of recall as they go.

Many thanks for your continued support,
Miss Caws

Remembrance Day

Ordinarily, year 6 would join me in Church on Remembrance Sunday & the whole school would join the community at the war memorial on the 11th however, this year, because of COVID I will take the oldest child + 2 service children over to lay our wreath at 11am on Wednesday 11th. We will continue to mark this important occasion as a whole school in assembly.

Winter PE kit

We are now firmly in chilly territory! Winter PE kit in school should comprise, for all children:

- Red logo PE t-shirt
- Red logo hoody or spare sweatshirt
- Dark, plain shorts (navy or black)
- Dark, plain tracksuit bottoms
- Trainers
- Hat and gloves are a great idea.

We don't want the girls wearing tights under their shorts which happens frequently – a full change of clothes is necessary for PE.

Cross Country

Just because we can't mix with other schools, it doesn't mean that our sports calendar is empty! We are entering into virtual competitions to keep the competitive element of sport going and next week, we will be competing against other local schools in our annual cross country event.

Children will be running a set distance in their PE lessons and entering scores virtually against their peers in King's Somborne, Wherwell, Wallop, West Tytherley, Lockerley and Broughton.

We'll let you know the winners in a fortnight's time!

Clubhouse are recruiting!

- Do you enjoy working with 4-11 year olds?
- Would you like a term-time job that works around your children?
- We have vacancies in our after-school team, working 3pm-6pm 2-4 days a week, term time only.
- A full induction and training will be provided.



The Clubhouse

Contact Miriam White at the.clubhouse@sky.com or 07557 916359 for a full job description and application form.

Photos

Every child had their individual and sibling photos taken. Our photography let us know this week that only 44% of our school have logged in to view their photos and only 22% have purchased any.

Please do have a look – there are other photos of your child on there, not just the one on the card.

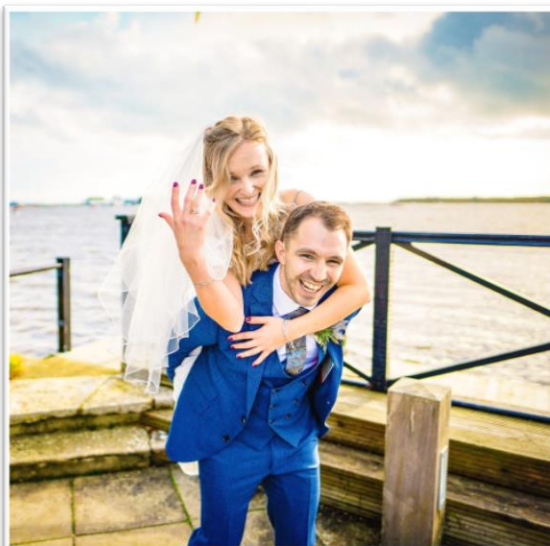
If you have mislaid yours or not received it, please see the school office.

We thought the photos were some of the loveliest we've had in recent years and they'd make great Christmas presents.

The photographer is also giving the school 20% of profits which is all helpful in a year of little fundraising.

And finally.....

After months of waiting, postponing, cancelling honeymoons and limiting numbers, we would like to send many, many congratulations to Mr & Mrs Cooper (Miss Kirkham of course) on their wedding which finally took place on Sunday 25th October. We are so happy for you both!



Open day

COVID put paid to our Open Day plans but we are not beaten! This week and early next week, we are filming all sorts of things as they happen in school to create a promotional video for entrants in 2020-21.

We will publish this next Friday on our website, facebook and other social media as well as google classroom.

As a small school, numbers in Year R are very important to our budget and help us to maintain the high level of support and resources we have been accustomed to. If you now of a family who might be interested, please let me know!