

Spring
Term 2021

Durley CE Primary School

Newsletter 2

15 January 2021



15 January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of our first full week of lockdown and home learning, the teachers have asked me to say a huge well done to all the children and yourselves for the amazing, high quality work that that you have sent into Google Classroom this week. We are extremely grateful to all of you who have contacted us over the past week with messages of thanks to our staff for their hard work with our new online learning. We loved the special messages from our Reception children.

Google Meetings Next Week

Next week all children will have an opportunity to meet with their classteacher on Google Meet. Mr Male has kindly put up a 'how to' guide on Google Classroom and ClassDojo for those of you who are uncertain how to join the meetings. The meeting link will always be at the top of your child's Google Classroom classwork and stream, and the timings on the timetable for the week. Please remember that if your child is meeting a member of staff on your laptop, you must make sure that you have closed down your own Google mail account and that you only have your child's Google mail account signed in. Can I also draw your attention to the letter sent out to parents on Wednesday with the code of conduct rules for joining the meetings. By taking part in the online calls, you are automatically agreeing to adhere to the rules. We have quickly discovered that not everyone has superfast uninterrupted broadband in Durley and beyond, so if you are unable to join us for a meeting, don't worry – it is not vital to the weeks learning.

Food Vouchers

We now have information from the Department of Education about meal vouchers for pupils who are eligible to receive income related free school meals (**not** universal free school meals for pupils in Years R-2), which will be backdated to last Tuesday. We will be contacting you from Monday with more information.

Prayer Competition

Many thanks to those of you who have sent in prayers for the prayer competition. I will be keeping the competition open until the end of January to give children time to enter if they wish. We have had some wonderful contributions sent in. If you are able to send in a film clip of your child reading their prayer, we will be able to show it in worship. Although I originally asked for a short prayer to start our worship, a short general prayer or prayer to finish worship would also be gratefully received. Remember to include our three school values – Love, Respect and Forgiveness.

DSA

I was disappointed to hear that our Chrome Books, which have been on order since the start of December, and our Chrome Book order from the Government, have both been delayed until at least the end of the month. I suspect many people are purchasing computer devices at the moment for home learning! We have been delighted to be able to give second hand laptops out to families who

do not have a workable device at home, thanks to a donation of old working laptops from SAGA through one of our parents. The computers have Windows 10, are in good working order with a charging lead. If you know of any companies that may be upgrading their devices and can donate to the school, we would be very grateful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you think you can help.

The DSA fundraising this school year will also be supporting our new and very exciting school grounds project to improve our school playground and playtimes. I am looking forward to meeting with a (socially distanced) landscape architect on Monday to make a start on designs.

Well done to one of our Year 4 pupils who has been learning about Vultures in her spare time and had her poster displayed on the Hawk Conservancy website.

Finally, with all of this online learning, please remember to keep active, take breaks and keep safe.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

Kirstie Baines
Headteacher