



Autumn 2020 Newsletter



What's been happening?

Thank you for your continued co-operation and support with ensuring children have been able to return safely and happily to Pottery Primary School. The children have really settled into their classes and it has been a pleasure to see them in school so happy and confident. Our attendance for the beginning of the year has been improving - thank you. As we continue to live in these uncertain times, we fully understand that there may be some anxieties amongst families around the recent increase in Coronavirus cases across the country. Please be mindful that everyone at school is working tirelessly to ensure children are kept as safe as possible so they can access school education.

As well as trying to keep safe, remembering 'Hands, Face, Space' and learning the new routines in school, we have been busy making new friends, getting used to our new teachers and enjoying playing outside in the new playground areas.

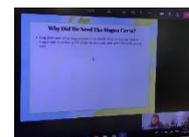
In the classrooms, we have been talking about friendship, treating each other with kindness and consideration and sharing some of the different experiences we had during lockdown. We have talked a lot about different emotions and how we have been feeling since coming back to school. We keep smiling by supporting each other, listening to each other and working together. Hopefully, everyone has access to their teachers email and you can always call the school office if you have any questions.

Accessing school work from home

We have continued to provide spellings and homework tasks using the link, which can be accessed via the school website. For children self-isolating, there is also a year group home learning site. We are required by the government to provide a blended learning platform so children can work more closely with their own teachers whilst at home. Staff are busy getting ready to use Microsoft Teams for this and will be providing the children with email addresses soon.



There may be times when staff are not in school due to the current situation. They may also use the live learning platform to continue to have contact with their class in school. Miss Illingworth's class has had a very exciting afternoon trying out their first live lesson today.



If your child does not have internet access at home or access to a tablet or laptop, please could you let your class teacher know or contact the school office. There is funding from the government to ensure all children are able to access home learning. If you would prefer paper copies of work whilst your child is at home, please let your class teacher or the school office know so we can also support this.

Uniform

Please name all school uniform. We are trying to avoid having lots of clothing around school and return lost property straight back to the right class.

Parents evening

Thank you for replying to your child's class teacher. Staff are now allocating times to fit in with your availability and will ring you on the evening as close to your availability as possible. If you have not yet contacted your child's class teacher with a preferred time, please do get in touch. When the teachers contact you, the number will come up as a private or unknown number.

Reception

Children in Reception have been busy with this term's topic - 'Marvellous Me'. They have been learning all about each other, making new friends and exploring their environment. Reception have enjoyed welly walks on the field and have learnt all about Autumn. They have been using their senses to explore the world around them and have especially enjoyed tasting pumpkin soup and pumpkin pie.



Year 1 / 2

It's been a swashbuckling adventure for year 1 and 2 who have been learning all about pirates. Everyday has been exciting and it's been great to see all the pirate arts and craft creations. This week is going to be the wet shelter challenge for Mr Boardman and Miss Bradley's class - will their shelter survive a soaking from the teachers? In Mrs Hawkins and Mrs Roberts class, the children will be making a raft to escape pirate island. Let's hope they stay afloat!



Year 3 / 4

Training a dragon is never going to be easy but the year 3 / 4 children have had a really good go! They have enjoyed reading 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell and learning about life during Viking times with Hiccup, the Viking Hero. The children have also been busy creating their own imaginary dragons and writing about them. What an amazing collection we have!



Year 5 / 6

If Pottery can't go to Parliament, we'll try and bring Parliament to year 5 / 6. The children have been busy writing to our local MP, Pauline Latham and are waiting for her reply and see if she can set up an online meeting. I am sure the children will have some very interesting questions to ask her! Year 5 / 6 have also made their own version of Top Trumps, which is all about London. They have had great fun finding out facts about landmarks and challenging each other in games.

Hand cream

As we continue to wash and sanitise hands regularly throughout the many children are getting sore hands. This is likely to get worse as weather gets colder. Where there is a particular issue with eczema sore hands, children have brought named cream in. We do also have large tub of aqueous hand cream, which the children can use if their are sore. The cream has been recommended by a chemist but please know if you would prefer your child **NOT** to use the school cream if they come to the office with sore hands.



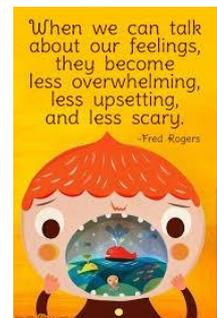
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Class DoJo

All classes are now using an online system called class DoJo. Children can earn DoJo's towards class golden times. This has been a huge motivator for many children and is proving to be very popular across school.



We encourage children to talk about worries and concerns. No matter how small a worry might seem, there is always an adult to listen. If you have any worries or concerns about your child / children, please let us know so we can do our best to try and support.



CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to our new school council. We continued with our school council elections with many children standing for school council and some fabulous manifestos. We are very proud to announce our new school council:

Reception - Darwin and Felicity

Mr Boardmann - Oliver

Miss Bradley - Emily

Mrs Hawkins / Roberts - Riley and Alfie

Miss Bostock / Mrs Hodgins - Willow

Mrs Kanigowski - Ben and Tyler

Miss Payne - Emily

Miss Slack - Dougie

Miss Illingworth - Eva and Emma

Mr Harlley - Grace



MORE CONGRATULATIONS ...

Miss Illingworth is expecting her first baby, which is due after Christmas. We are all very excited for her and wish her all the best.



COVID

We now have our own contact tracing app. We have a notice in the entrance for visitors coming to school.

In school, we continue to follow all the guidance as it comes out and will continue to keep you updated by email, text and notifications on the website.



Christmas is not cancelled - it will just be different

Although, we will not have Christmas performances this year, the children will still be taking part in their own class Christmas activities. Reception will be zooming their nativity and will put a copy on Tapestry for you to enjoy with your children. The year 1 and 2 children are planning on uploading songs and music to the home learning site so you can enjoy their Christmas music all year round!

Rather than going to church for the carol service, St Peters Church will be leading a virtual Christingle for the children during school time. The children will make their own Christingle during the service.

At the end of term, we will do a year group something for the children but are mindful about restrictions in place and will have to think carefully how we manage a 'party day' with a difference (but just as much fun). I've got lots of ideas - watch this space!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher or the school office if there is anything we can do to support with your child's learning or well being.