

Northgate Primary School Newsletter

January 8th 2021

Headteacher's News

The start of 2021 will be one we all remember! This is an incredibly challenging situation, and our thoughts go out to all those who have family members who are currently seriously ill.

The difficult decision to close schools was based on the health of the community and our over stretched NHS. Keeping the school open with an increasing number of staff isolating or awaiting test results, and ensuring staff were kept safe, was becoming increasingly difficult. I appreciate it is immensely challenging for all families trying to juggle work and home learning. As a school, we have been committed to ensuring quality provision, trying to ensure the learning gap does not widen. Therefore, this time, we are offering some live lessons, which I appreciate supports many families but creates extra stress for some. If accessing these create more challenges for you, please make the class teacher aware of this. However, we would like all children to complete the English and maths work set and submit it as requested by the class teacher.

This is the first week of Google Classrooms so it is a learning experience for us all. Please be patient as we iron out the glitches and find how to use it most effectively to teach. The teachers are highly committed to making this successful and will make adjustments over the next weeks to improve how it is working. Everyone has been delighted seeing their classes, and have been impressed with the positive attitude of the children so far. We will do another questionnaire in a couple of weeks, once things have begun to settle down, as we always appreciate your feedback!

Please note the lessons are for the children to communicate with the teachers. Parents should email the class email address if they need to speak to the teacher.

If your company has old unwanted laptops or ipads, that they are willing to donate, I am sure that there are families that would appreciate them. We have had eight computers provided by the Government that have been handed out to some of our pupil premium children.

Please keep safe and follow the guidelines. Have a relaxing weekend.

Top tips for Google Classrooms

Submitting Documents

You can attach one or more files to your work. You can also open new files in Google docs/slides/sheets or drawings, work in them, and then attach them to your work.

1. Go to classroom.google.com
2. Click 'Classwork'
3. Click the work to view

To attach an item:

4. Under your work click 'add' or 'create'
5. Select Google Drive, Link or File
6. Select the attachment or enter the URL for a link - click Add.

To attach a new document:

7. Under your work click 'add' or 'create' docs/slides/sheets/drawings. A new file attaches to your work and opens for you to use.

Important Dates - 2020/21

15th-19th Feb	February Half Term
Mon 22nd Feb	INSET DAY
Tues 23rd Feb	Children Return to School
Fri 26th March	End of Term at 2.00pm
Mon 12th Apr	Children Return to School
Mon 3rd May	May Bank Holiday
10th-13th May	KS2 SATs week
May 2021	KS1 SATs
31st May-4th Jun	May Half Term
Mon 7th June	INSET DAY
Tues 8th June	Children Return to School
7th-11th June	Yr 1 Phonics Screening and Yr 2 Retakes
7th-18th June	Yr 4 Multiplication Tests
Weds 21st July	End of Term at 2.00pm
Thurs 22nd July	OCCASIONAL DAY

Celebration of Achievements

This week, every child and parent in Reception are **stars of the week** for adapting to home learning in such a brilliant way this week.

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on maths.

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for their perseverance and asking excellent questions.

Well done to:

Class 1: Joshua M	Class 7: Daniel
Class 2: Otis	Class 8: Ailsa
Class 3: Thomas	Class 9: Lara
Class 4: Evelynne	Class 10: Isobel
Class 5: Theo	Class 11: Zoe and Beck
Class 6: Oscar	Class 12: Amber and Katherine

Safeguarding

Google Safety Settings

With our pupils accessing home learning through Google, it is important to remember that they might come across inappropriate content during a search, even if searching for something innocent. Google SafeSearch is a feature which helps you keep adult content out of their search results.

Follow these steps to set up Google SafeSearch

- ◆ Open Search settings
- ◆ Go to www.google.co.uk and click on 'Settings' at the bottom of the page.
- ◆ Click on 'Search settings' in the drop-down menu that appears.
- ◆ Click 'Turn on SafeSearch'.
- ◆ Click Save at the bottom of the page to save your SafeSearch settings.