

Oak Hill Church of England Primary School



Newsletter Friday 29th January 2021

Heaters

We have had a little bit of disruption in school on Thursday and Friday as new heaters have been fitted in Class 4 (Juniper Class) Update; not quite finished yet, hopefully all sorted on Monday. We are very grateful to Gloucestershire County Council for funding 75% of this work. We really appreciate their support.

Mental Health Week

From 1-7th February, we're taking part in Place2Be's Children's Mental Health week. This year's theme is 'Express Yourself'. Finding creative, enjoyable ways to share our thoughts, feelings and ideas can make us feel good and help our mental health, especially when we face tough situations or difficult times. Place2Be has created wonderful activities and resources for children (and adults) to explore the different ways that we can express ourselves. Keep an eye on Class Dojo next week for special morning messages and activities from us all at Oak Hill. You can also visit childrensmentalhealthweek.org or the Mental Health tab on our school website for further support, information and useful links.

Miss Tarling attended a Youth Mental Health course this week which provided more insights into mental health and the factors that can affect people's well-being. One of the main insights she took away from this course is that people prefer to seek support from friends and family rather than a mental health expert, so it is important to keep talking openly about mental health. Many books and further resources were recommended, so she will

update our mental health section of the website with these. She said "I am very excited about sharing more with the school community next week, as we take part in Children's Mental Health Week!"



**WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT
CHILDREN'S MENTAL
HEALTH WEEK**

CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK
#CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK

Half Term

We received formal notification this week that school will be closed during half term. As a school, and for parents, we were really pleased that we have had early notification of this from the Department for Education. Please note Monday 22nd is an INSET Day, so school will reopen on the Tuesday. Following on from the announcement in Parliament on Wednesday, the Government are currently looking for schools to hopefully reopen to all pupils from 8th March as long as certain criteria are met.

Covid

Testing for staff has begun really well and we are all pleased to be getting our twice weekly tests. Our bubbles and structures regarding Covid are working well and the children are proving very responsible in following the requirements.

Laptop Donation

We are very grateful to Angela Piercy and the Wormington Village Society for donating several laptops to the school for use by families during this difficult time. As soon as we have conducted our checks on them then they will pass on to families who would benefit from them. Thank you it was very generous.

Mobile Data increases and Dongles

If you are having difficulty accessing the internet with your children for remote learning then school may be able to help through the Government data and dongle scheme.

Schools, local authorities and trusts can request an increase in mobile data for a child or parent who has an existing mobile contract with a participating network if they are unable to access broadband internet at home. Most providers have additional conditions that account holders must meet. Note that not all participating networks can support pay-as-you-go customers.

The recipient will get an increase in mobile data on a monthly basis until July 2021.

Choose this option if:

- the account holder is with a [participating network and meets the conditions set by the provider](#)
- the child or young person can use the mobile device's internet connection on a device suitable for learning (this is known as tethering)
- the owner of the mobile device will be at home when the child or young person is learning remotely
- the mobile phone has a strong signal at home

There's no content filtering with mobile data increases, so if the child will be unsupervised while using the internet, it may be better to choose a 4G wireless router.

The networks taking part in this scheme are EE, O2, Sky Mobile, SMARTY, Tesco Mobile, Three, Virgin and Vodafone.

4G wireless routers are compact digital devices, sometimes referred to as 'dongles' or 'mobile wifi', that provide an internet connection wherever there is access to mobile networks.

Choose this option if:

- the extra data for mobile devices option is not suitable
- there's more than one child or young person in the household who needs to learn remotely
- a mobile phone or tablet (tethered or not) is not regularly available for the child or young person's use
- the child or young person is likely to access the internet without supervision

We are aware of a couple of requests for support in this area and we are in the process of ordering, if you feel that this is something that will support you and your children then please get in touch.

Governor Standing Down

The Governors would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Jan Roach who, for personal reasons, has had to step down from her position as a governor. She has been a valuable member of the board for a number of years, her commitment and contribution will be sadly missed. We all wish her well in the future.

Oak Hill Governing Body

Lock down Lunches

If you are struggling for lunch ideas during lockdown then there is a great resource that the NHS has produced that gives some great ideas and inspiration for lunches and all priced at £15 a week

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/lunch/cheap-lockdown-lunch-ideas>

Half Term Free School Meals

As part of the County Council's commitment to ensure *No Child Goes Hungry* the scheme

will run again through the February Half Term.

During February Half Term the online portal will be available for Parents to apply for vouchers themselves. The portal will be live on the Gloucestershire County Council website from **25th January – 5th February 2021** (closing at 5pm). Please be aware that any Parent or Carer who received a voucher during October or December holidays will receive this automatically and does not need to apply again through the portal for February.

Once the portal has closed the County Council aim for all vouchers to be sent between the 8th-10th February 2021.

Church Service in Alderton

As you are aware Church services are presently suspended and a Morning Prayer takes place via Zoom. We will be publishing the link each week.

Topic: Morning Prayer

Time: 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79812573605?pwd=V0w2MEhPcDZYQTJpajR1bm90dmUzUT09>

Meeting ID: 798 1257 3605

Passcode: EJ8WjH

Oak Academy Virtual Library

Oak Academy are starting their own virtual Library with a different book every week which can be read virtually, as well as interviews with the author. This week's book is *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant* by Nizrana Farook

Link: <https://library.thenational.academy/>

Maple Class

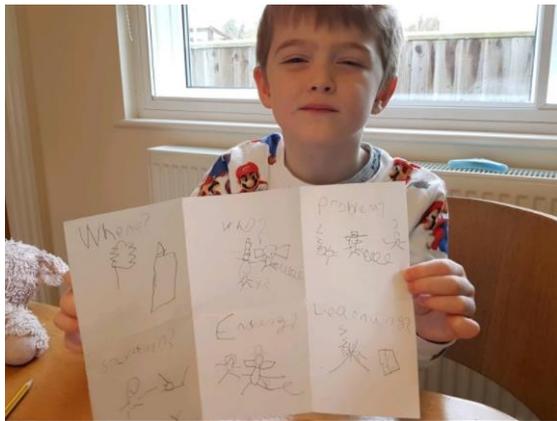
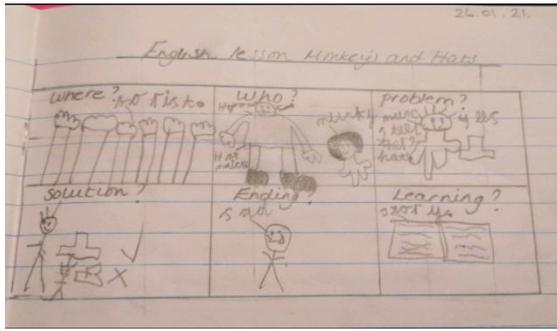
This week, Maple Class have been learning all about the Fire and Rescue service.

Winchcombe Fire Service made an amazing presentation especially for us, where we got to see everything in a fire engine and learn about all of the important jobs the firefighters do! We then made our own fire engines and wrote about what we want to be when we grow up.



Willow Class

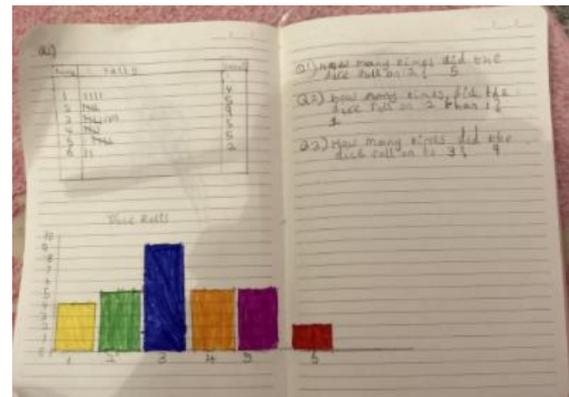
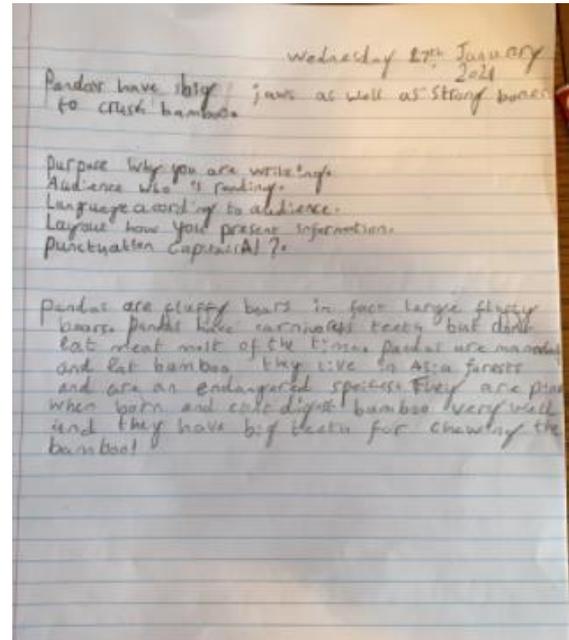
This week in English we have begun a new story called 'Monkeys and Hats' which is very funny! The children have done a fantastic job of creating their story maps and retelling the story through song, mime and reflection. In Maths we have been working hard on our place value. Year 2 have been focussing on numbers to 100 and Year 1 have been learning to split numbers into their tens and ones! During our topic lessons we have been looking closely at Brazil and this week we explored the cities in Brazil and made comparisons to our nearby cities in the UK!



Hawthorn Class

In Hawthorn this week the children have been learning about bar charts in Year 3 and fractions in Year 4. In English, they have been learning about pandas, this information is going to be put into a non-chronological report next week. In Geography, the children

have been exploring how the use of land in the UK is split. Did you know only 10% of the space in England is urban!



Juniper Class

In Juniper Class this week, we have started our new topic about global warming and rainforests. Lots of children are really excited about our new topic and we have begun by learning about how plastic pollution has a major impact on our environment. In English, the children have been getting really creative by coming up with their own schemes and inventions to reduce plastic waste and we have started to learn about persuasive writing. In Maths we have continued to develop our understanding of decimals, percentages and fractions, using problem solving questions. The children also took part in a live read Gloucestershire event which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

