

15.1.21

Dear Parents and Carers

Message from Mrs Rawlins – 15.1.21

I hope this finds you well, as we reach the end of this first full week of the Spring Term. We are continuing to liaise with you and to try and find ways to help with and develop remote learning. It has been good to catch up with so many of you by phone during this week and get your feedback. There are several areas I wanted to update you on – my apologies for such a long letter on a Friday (you might need a cup of tea whilst you are reading!).

Daily learning on eSchools and organisation of teaching staff

At present, the two teachers in each year group are alternating with one week teaching in school, and the next week working on remote learning from home. Of course, we know that things may change if staff need to self-isolate, but this allows both teachers in the year group to keep in touch with the remote learning needs of their own class, as well as respond to children at home across the year group. The teacher working from home will be mainly taking the lead in creating the lesson content, updating the eSchools page and responding to work submitted. The teacher in school will have some time to keep in touch with the children in their class when they are not actively teaching.

To keep things as simple as possible, from Monday, all daily learning will be posted on a year group page on eSchools, in the 'My groups' area. I have attached a document to show you how to access it. This means that the teacher managing the remote learning just has to update one page each day, and not two class pages, which will be a more effective use of their time. When sending in children's work, please send it in a message to both teachers, which will enable the class teacher to see it even if they are working in school, and the teacher working remotely to respond more easily. We have had some gorgeous work sent in this week – thank you!

We know that there continue to be some technical issues with so many children accessing eSchools on different devices, and we will carry on trying to resolve these. If you are watching a video on a Sway, there is a way to select a lower resolution, which should speed up the download time – I have attached a document from Mr Sapsford to show you how to do this.

Weekly remote curriculum provision: Government guidance encourages schools to try to offer a good breadth of learning, and not solely focus on reading, writing and Maths. I have attached a document which shows what we are offering on eSchools at present for each day.

Reading – supporting children with reading at home

We are looking into sources of texts which can be accessed online from home, such as Oxford Owls (<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks/>). Audible are offering free access to audiobooks for children here, whilst schools are not open to all pupils: <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

Arbury Court library are offering a 'Select and Collect' service, which you can book online and then collect from the library. Details here: https://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Select_and_Collect

For children in Year 2-6, they can take Accelerated Reader quizzes at home by following the link on the school website main page 'AR quizzes'. They will need the password which they use for Education City to log in. You can find out if the book they are reading has an AR quiz (you need the quiz number to take the quiz) by checking on AR Bookfinder here: <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>

Also, on eSchools, there is a group page called 'The English Group'. If you go to that page, click on the link at the top of the page, which will take you to 2 Reading Rooms, one for KS1 and the other for KS2. Mrs Dowdall is uploading daily videos of stories and picturebooks being read aloud.

Something to watch together

In case you are interested, I am passing on links to two different pantomimes, which can be watched online free of charge. One is 'Jack and the Beanstalk', which we watched in school before the Christmas break (doesn't that seem a long time ago!), and the other is The National Theatre's production of 'Dick Whittington'. We are grateful to the companies concerned for making these available.

- Jack and the Beanstalk (available to watch until half-term):
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7807119> **Password – NimbleJack**
- Dick Whittington (available to watch until 31st January):
<https://www.ntathome.com/screeners?code=c1f01eb5>

Phew! That will do for today, I think! This letter and the attachments are on the school website in the Remote Learning Hub. Please continue to send in any questions to me at drawlins@arbury.cambs.sch.uk, or to the school office at office@arbury.cambs.sch.uk.

Wishing you all a good weekend!
Kind regards

Diane Rawlins
Deputy Headteacher

