

29.1.21

Dear Parents and Carers

Message from Mrs Rawlins – update – 29.1.21

We have reached the end of another week of learning remotely. Thank you for your feedback and for supporting your children so amazingly! We know the immense pressure to juggle your time and resources isn't easy; please do continue to let us know of anything we can do to support you.

We are now in a situation where around 80-86% of children are logging in to eSchools daily to access learning and to send us work. This is great, although we realise that with so many children engaging, this is causing lots of messages to build up in the children's eSchools inboxes. We have asked eSchools to delete long message strings, to clear messages prior to 10th January, and group messages will now be sent with replied disabled. We, of course, encourage children to send a message to anyone, friends or teachers, but to do this by sending a direct message. Hopefully, as this beds in, numbers of messages to individuals will drop. We will keep on monitoring it.

A couple of things to let you know about this week:

Reading: Mrs Dowdall has published a new reading newsletter, which is on the English group page on eSchools; I have also attached a pdf copy, and it is on the 'Reading at Home' page on the school website (link here: https://www.arbury.cambs.sch.uk/website/reading_at_home/468025) Also on the Reading at Home page is a link to Epic! – this site has a lot of books to read or listen to online, and for children using Accelerated Reader, you can search for books within their reading level.

'We love to read' – To celebrate our passion for reading, Mrs Dowdall would love to receive any photos of children reading at home, in the garden – even out on a daily walk! You can send them to her attached to a message via eSchools, or to me and I will pass them on to her.

Children's Mental Health Week – 1st – 7th February: Next week is a national week focusing on Children's Mental Health. This is very relevant with schools only being partially open to children at this time. We know how hard it is to deal with life right now as adults, and for children, it can be very difficult to cope with all of the changes and restrictions they face each day. In my assemblies next week, I will use materials provided for schools by Place2Be; the theme for the week is 'Express Yourself'. You may want to try out some of the resources suggested for parents and carers to use with their children at home:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/> .

As usual, do contact us if we can be of help. If you have any specifically KS1 questions, please contact Kathy Whiting at kwhiting@arbury.cambs.sch.uk and anything specifically involving KS2, please contact me at drawlins@arbury.cambs.sch.uk.

Wishing you all a happy weekend!

Kind regards

Diane Rawlins
Deputy Headteacher