

Pilgrim Primary Academy

Headteacher: Mrs L Meek (BA Hons, PGCE)

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22nd January 2021

Newsletter 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all feeling well and, like us, getting used to this latest period of National lockdown. I am sure that those of you who are supporting your children to learn at home are settling into the new routines and getting to grips with the learning on Google Classroom. I know that it is not easy....

Home Learners

I want to say a massive THANK YOU to you all. You are doing an incredible job at home. I have been absolutely blown away by the fantastic learning, the photos and the videos that you are sending in via the Google Classrooms - the children are so engaged and well supported by you.

This week, some of the stand out learning across school has been;

Y6 - Have been learning about civil rights in history and researching a project/newspaper article on Rosa Parks & the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Y5 - Created some pastel and Paint pictures of the planets and have undertaken some super research about Earth and space. Look out for next week's when Y5 are starting a project to design their own moon landing craft.

Y4 – Have been working hard to learn about diary entries in English and producing some great writing.

Y3 – Created caves in the classroom (complete with cave paintings) and I have seen lots of models of stone age caves and dwellings made by our home learners!

Y2 – Have been 'Animal-Tastic' writing some free verse poems about penguins. Lots of year 2s followed an art tutorial of how to draw a koala, after reading 'The Koala Who Could', with great results!

Y1 – Have been on a virtual trip to London and had a Red, White and Blue themed day. Photos of your cooking and baking have made us all hungry and some children dressed up and decorated their rooms in Red White and Blue too!

EYFS – Have done some fantastic house building, making homes for the Three Little Pigs.

Please keep the photos and videos coming in. We all really love to see how the children are getting on at home.

In this lockdown, the children seem to be much more confident in their use of Google Classroom and staff are starting to expand ways that we can interact and feedback to

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children about their learning. We are in the process of introducing a new element to our online offer in the form of 'live' sessions once or twice a week. In these sessions, we aim to keep the children connected, with the children at home and the children in school coming together for a chance to do something as a team, like a dance, song or just a chance to catch up and chat. In these sessions we want the children to share their learning and all of their creations together, celebrate their successes and think as a group about what has gone well or set whole class goals for the following week.

The live sessions that we have had so far have been a great success with children telling us how much they enjoy them (and the staff seem to love them too)! There is lots of giggling and laughter from the classes in school when the live sessions are taking place!

Internet access and access to technology

Obviously, much of our remote learning relies upon your children being able to access Google Classroom or other technology. Many families have already been in contact to let us know that they have limited internet and/or devices for all the family to use for learning. Please continue to let us know if you need help. We have a small stock of ChromeBooks that we are happy to lend out if your child does not have an adequate device to work on. If you would like to be considered for this, please contact the school office (01752 225319) or drop and email to techsupport@ppsonline.org and we will get in touch with you to assess your needs and see if we can help.

Also, The Department for Education is working in partnership with mobile network operators to help schools support disadvantaged pupils who do not have a fixed broadband connection and rely on a mobile internet connection to access remote education. In addition, 4G wireless routers can be made available from the DfE to lend to disadvantaged children where a lack of internet disrupts education at home. Again, please get in touch with school to discuss if you would be eligible for either of these.

Free School Meals - move to voucher scheme

Those families who are eligible for free school meals should have received a letter at the start of this week giving details of our move on to the national voucher scheme which is being delivered by EdenRed. From next week, vouchers will be sent to families directly from EdenRed and they will then be sent weekly to you. If you have not received information about this or if you have any issues next week, please call the office and we will try to help.

And finally...

Please, please continue to get in touch with school for any help or support that you need. Also, please do let us know if there is anything that you feel we can do to improve our remote learning offer. I have already had some good suggestions from parents and carers and we always endeavour to put good suggestions in place. Over the next week or so, I hope to send out a survey to ask for your initial feedback about how things are going so far and we will be asking the children for their feedback too over the coming weeks. I want

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us to continue to work together to make sure that our children can make the most of this very difficult situation - they have made a brilliant start and I am sure will continue to do so!

Have a great weekend everyone and please take care and stay safe,

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'L Meek'.

Mrs Lisa Meek