



Newsletter

12.2.2021

Dear parents & carers,

Wow! What a term. Well done to all of you who have had to adjust to home learning despite the challenges and juggling that have ensued. You have done an amazing job helping your child/ren to engage positively. You will have helped them tremendously in their core skills and also in helping them to be ready for school again when we return on site. Sometimes Class 3 clap parents on their live Zoom lessons. Today the school staff are clapping you too for your heroic efforts!

We hope our families and children enjoy a restful half term holiday – maybe a time to have a break from the screen and walk, talk, bake, kick a ball, play a board game when you have time.

We are hopeful of a full return to working on site on March 8th – like you we await new guidance with positive anticipation.

Safer Internet Day

We are all using the technology & the internet a lot more at present. At school in Autumn Term all classes explored online safety as part of the curriculum – this focus is undertaken each year in school. Unfortunately due to covid-19 restrictions, last year and this year we have been unable to take our Y4 children to the 'Into The Net' play which explores online safety in creative, thought-provoking ways. However, we have secured a link to an audio of the play so when the present Y4 and Y5 children return to working on the school site teachers can use this to reiterate key online safety messages.

This week it is Safer Internet Day. The focus this year is the important issue of the reliability of information online. If you are interested in talking to your child about this in more detail, please find some links below which will guide you to some safe, responsible and engaging resources.

You can find some short films which explore the reliability of information in child friendly ways here: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/i-am-educator/safer-internet-day-films/films-5-11-year>

There is a quiz for 8+ which could start some really useful discussions for you and your child/ren: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/safer-internet-day-2021-quiz>

Find a useful link below for more information, conversation starters and family activities: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/i-am-parent-or-carer>

Children Working at Home



Well done to all our children working at home. We know this term will have been really hard for you at times but your teachers and I think you have been brilliant. You have tried your best, been resilient and worked hard to keep a positive routine to help yourself keep well. Lockdowns have never happened before in my lifetime (and I'm quite old now!) and you have impressed us all with how you have looked after yourself by learning and being active as well as helping your families. We are proud of each of you. We miss you and are really looking forward to seeing you again at school as soon as we are allowed.

Nature Competition

Mr Dougan has set a nature competition up for children in school to encourage everyone to enjoy the beauty around us in gardens and on local walks this spring time. I know many children in our school love nature and several have started their newsbooks and diaries.

Entries for the competition will be collected when we return to working on site – at the moment we think this will be March 8th but need to wait for Government announcements. As explained in the competition letter we will put boxes at the front of the school for the R-Y2 and Y3-Y6 entries. We will self-isolate the entries before we give them to Mr Dougan for judging.

Until then, keep walking and spotting the changes that are happening around us. In school the first crocuses in the tubs have come up. I have been looking at the Oak tree that our friends in Langa-Langa School in Kenya gave us, it is not in leaf yet – I wonder when the leaves will begin to show again? Enjoy taking notice of the world around you.



Live Lessons

As part of remote learning, we are using Zoom to deliver live lessons. We know how important these have been to the children as they have the opportunity to see their friends, teacher, learn together – we know they also help give a structure to the day. The teachers ask, to help others not

be distracted during live lessons, that children are fully clothed and not eating. To help with learning, the teachers ask that children use their usual first name on screen too. Many thanks.

We have a behaviour addendum to our Behaviour Policy – both are on the school website for you to read.

School Hubs

I want to say how proud I am of all the children on site. They have lived our school values while learning on site – being co-operative, kind and responsible. They have undertaken the same learning as those learning at home and have worked with independence and supported each other well with the odd technology glitch! It has been especially wonderful to see how the children have included others in their games and played so well together at lunch and break times. They are a credit to the school and you.



Model building and reading a dinosaur book at lunch time.



Playtime balancing.