



Worth Valley Primary School

NEWSLETTER

15 January 2021

Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

I should start by saying Happy New Year! I hope you and your families managed to celebrate Christmas and the New Year as best you could; although so far 2021 is not quite bringing us the optimism, fortune or normality we are all so desperately looking forward to.



That said, I have to say how proud I have been of our whole school community since the very start of the new term. The staff, as always, have worked tirelessly to make school as safe and welcoming as possible. A special thank you to the teachers—literally overnight they had to change their whole way of working and find new ways of adapting teaching to ensure it was accessible both at school and at home. All of this, of course, is done whilst the staff themselves are home schooling their own children, looking after relatives and teaching our vulnerable children and those of critical workers in school. They are exhausted and I know you will agree that we appreciate everything they are doing.

I am also extremely proud of our children. Yet again our pupils have shown what a positive, adaptable and incredibly resilient bunch they really are! It has been wonderful to see photos of the work and activities children are engaging in; overleaf I have included some of the examples we've been sent. Please continue to email us with any work your children complete. We have displays in each classroom to showcase the great work children are completing (both in school and at home) and teachers will be choosing two stars of the week: one for home learning and one for school learning, so every single pupil has the opportunity to be acknowledged for their efforts.

And finally, a huge thank you to all you parents and carers for your ongoing support. The entire education system has been faced with many, many challenges and obstacles over the last two weeks and your patience and understanding is very much appreciated. Much of your positive feedback is passed on to me and I can tell you for certain, sometimes it is all the staff need to keep them going.

The recent severe weather conditions have delayed a number of plans, including the distribution of laptops to families who do not have access to an electronic device. We hope to be in a position to begin this process on Monday and will be contacting families we identified as a priority through our audit conducted earlier this academic year.

We've also seen on the news (it is a myth that schools always get to hear this sort of information before the general public!) that free school meal vouchers are to be re-introduced. As always, as soon as we receive further guidance and are in a position to offer this, we will be in touch.

We will also be able to offer weekly lunch hampers to families whose financial circumstances have changed due to the pandemic. You do not need to be entitled to free school meals in order to be eligible. Please contact myself or Mrs Barnes via email at c.lodge@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk or t.barnes@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk or through the school office on 01535 604240 if you feel school can support you in any of the ways mentioned above.

Take care and enjoy the snow. We hope to reopen school to children of critical workers on Monday 18 January.

Which light sources would you place in the middle?

Where would the moon go in this Venn diagram? What about a mirror?

Handwriting practice on lined paper.