



Worth Valley Primary School NEWSLETTER

9 February 2021

Headteacher's Message



Dear parents and carers,

Usually our newsletter is sent out fortnightly; however due to the huge amount of information I need to communicate (a lot of which is relevant this week) I am sending it out a few days early. The next government announcement regarding education is due on 22 February (the first Monday after half term) and hopefully by then we will be much clearer on when all pupils are able to return to school safely.

Thank you for everything you've been doing in recent weeks to help motivate, encourage and praise your children whilst they've adapted to learning at home. They really have made all of us in school feel so proud of how determined and consistent they've been—not to mention having to learn new IT skills so quickly! Mrs Brown, our CEO, visited school last week to look at the provision of our remote learning. I am delighted to inform you that the Trust are very pleased with our offer and how well pupils are engaging. The '*Lockdown Learning*' displays in each classroom showcase the quality of work pupils are producing both in school and at home and engagement is increasing week on week. The efforts of our amazing, hardworking teachers and support staff was also recognised and I am so impressed at how quickly and positively our whole school community has responded to this new (but thankfully, temporary) way of learning.

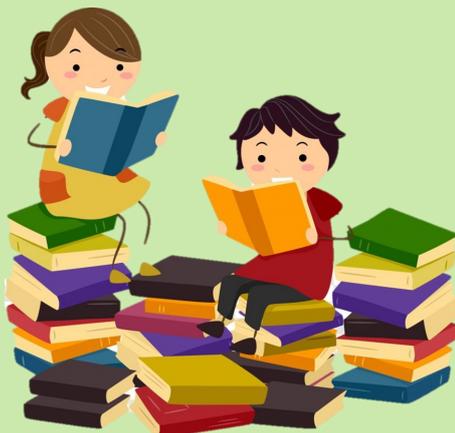
A letter from the Trust can be found on the inside of this newsletter along with a link to a short Trust survey about remote learning—please take the time to complete the survey if you have a spare few minutes.

Have a well-earned break from home schooling next week and enjoy half term as much as lockdown restrictions enable us to!

School will close as usual over February half term.

We will re-open to vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers on Monday 22 February.

Reading books



From Tuesday we are pleased to inform you that children will be able to exchange their reading books.

On **TUESDAYS** and **FRIDAYS** you are welcome to come to school and exchange the school books children have read for new ones. Please bring along your child's reading record – this will enable staff to record the books children are reading which will then count towards the Reading Championship.

School meal information

The Department for Education have updated their guidance and informed schools that Edenred will not be issuing free school meal supermarket vouchers during February half term.

However, no child should ever have to go hungry and as an alternative, school are able to provide food hampers for families.

Please contact myself or Mrs Barnes via email at c.lodge@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk or t.barnes@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk before Thursday this week to arrange collection (we are unable to deliver due to our risk assessment and having minimal staffing on site).

I would like to stress that ALL families are eligible to request a food hamper – you do not need to be eligible for benefits-related free school meals. We know that some of our hardest-hit families are those who have been furloughed or lost their jobs due to the pandemic.



Mrs Barnes has been extremely busy lately helping many families apply for the 'No Child Cold' scheme.

This scheme is designed to help families where:

- household income, of those responsible for bills, has fallen due to a reduction in wages, either because of a reduction in working hours, a loss of regular overtime or a member of the household has been furloughed.
- The family is a low income household (defined as being in receipt of UC, tax credits or other income related DWP / local authority benefit) and fuel costs have increased as a result of children being at home because of school closures.
- The family live in a household where the child would be entitled to free school meals and fuel costs have increased because the children have had to stay at home because of school closures.

"No Child Cold" is administered through Citizens Advice and will pay out grants of £80 to household which will be made directly to energy suppliers on behalf of the family

Please email Mrs Barnes at t.barnes@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk if you would like to apply for the grant.



5th February 2021

Dear parents and carers

I hope you are all keeping well.

While, hopefully, we are seeing a light at the end of the tunnel as the Covid-19 vaccination programme rolls out, we want to continue to develop our home learning offer. We simply want to better understand what is working well for our families, and where things can be enhanced further in the future.

That is why it would be fantastic if you could take a few moments to answer ten very short questions about the home learning offer that has been provided during our current lockdown. Our Trust and our staff have invested a lot of time and effort in trying to provide all of the support we can and getting a full understanding about the impact it has had, is really important.

You can visit the survey by [clicking here](#), and a link will shortly be on the home page of the Leading Learners website at:

<https://www.leadinglearnersmat.co.uk>

Thank you for all your continued support.

Take care and stay safe.

Best wishes

Yvonne Brown

CEO Leading Learners

Captain Sir Tom Moore

We learned, with great sadness, of the passing of Captain Sir Tom Moore last week.

In memory of such an inspirational figure of determination and perseverance, every school in the Trust are currently in the process of planning a fundraiser which will involve and include every single pupil—whether at home or in school. Given that Sir Tom was a Keighley man, I feel it is fitting that (as the only Keighley school in the Trust) Worth Valley's plans are that little bit more creative and aspirational!



Staff are currently busy planning sponsored fundraising events—all of which will have a link to the number 100. We will update you with more information as soon as we have finalised the details and the event is due to take place during the first two weeks back after February half term.

International day of Hygge

Making sure we do everything we can to maintain children's mental health and wellbeing is always important; but now more than ever. We have done a great deal of work in school and through our remote learning provision to help children manage their emotions and make sense of the world we are currently living in.

Mrs Richardson, our nursery teacher, has a keen interest in the Danish concept of 'Hygge' and has been looking at ways to incorporate this way of thinking into our everyday lives in school.

Sunday 28 February is the international day of Hygge and so on Monday 1 March, each teacher will provide their class (both in school and via remote provision) with a selection of Hygge activities to help maintain positive wellbeing amongst our children.



What is Hygge?

Pronounced "hoo-ga," this Danish concept cannot be translated to one single word but encompasses a feeling of cosy contentment and well-being through enjoying the simple things in life. If you've ever enjoyed reading a book indoors on a rainy Sunday or a cup of hot cocoa on a snow day, you've experienced *Hygge* without even knowing it!