



NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher: Mr S Bowsher



Headteacher's Comment:

You may have seen on the news this week that the government will give schools two weeks' notice when they are to fully reopen. All of us want this to be after February half term, so we will watch this space. It is half way through this half term. Sometimes milestones like this help us realise how far we have come already. I was listening to someone on the radio this week and they said, 'You endure today while waiting for tomorrow'. It was this that made me think that sometimes we don't always appreciate what is happening here and now. A good example of this was how over Christmas I wasn't able to see all my friends and family, but I did get to spend more time than I would have done with my teenage daughters – although they may not have felt the same! Try to find something to enjoy every day while home learning, it helps wellbeing.

There are lots of things out there that can help our wellbeing and I'm sure you all know of many things. Feeling good is going to help us get through this tricky period. Here are a few suggestions that you may want to try over the next week or so that may help you and your child.

1. Get in touch with people. We can't go out and meet people, but talking on the phone or by video is a great thing to be doing. This is one of the reasons we have started our 'classmeets'.
2. Get out with your family. There are many great parks in Brentwood and more people are out walking, even in the evenings. It's surprising how many other people are out walking too. The fresh air and exercise does everyone good
3. Try to stick to a routine, even if it doesn't fit with what would happen normally in school. This excellent resource from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) may help as it allows flexibility with a focus on some of the important things such as enjoying reading or helping out with a job.
[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19 Resources/Resources for parents/Supporting home learning routines - Planning the day.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19%20Resources/Supporting%20home%20learning%20routines%20Planning%20the%20day.pdf)
4. Try something new. This could be as simple as playing a new game or learning a new skill. You'd be amazed at how quickly children can do this. Just look at how good they are now with online learning.
5. A few teachers have mentioned about the 'Big Garden Birdwatch organised by the RSPB between 29th and 31st January. Mr Shimplin, our outdoor learning lead, has sent me some information, suggesting families sign up. The idea is to promote outdoor learning whilst working from home and giving children the opportunity to explore wildlife. The link below allows you to sign up for free and you get all they need to take part, including an information pack, a survey sheet, expert advice and games like 'Name that Tune' and 'What bird are you'. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

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He has also suggested making a bird feeder to encourage birds into your garden before you start doing the survey. There are many examples out there and Mrs Bailey was making some this week with the Year 5 critical worker children.



TALK & LISTEN,
BE THERE,
FEEL CONNECTED



DO WHAT YOU CAN,
ENJOY WHAT YOU DO,
MOVE YOUR MOOD



REMEMBER
THE SIMPLE
THINGS THAT
GIVE YOU JOY



EMBRACE NEW
EXPERIENCES,
SEE OPPORTUNITIES,
SURPRISE YOURSELF



Your time,
your words,
your presence

Remote Learning

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to complete the remote learning survey this week. We had 160 responses which was brilliant. We have already started to collate the responses but a number of things are clear.

The vast majority think the work we are setting is about right and the children enjoy it. We have to set 3 hours for children in up to Year 2 and 4 hours of work for children in Years 3 to 6. A lot of you are having to juggle multiple children, your own work and all the normal everyday things and this can be a challenge. The fact that the children get to see their teacher first thing each day sets the day off well, but the flexibility of the day means that it suits the majority. For those children at home, we have added a live 'classmeet' this week. I've managed to pop into a few myself and it is lovely to see the children. The school isn't the same without them.

We have changed a few things this week on how Teams works. Children can't now get straight into a lesson, but will instead have to wait in a virtual lobby to be let in by their teacher. The Meet button for children has also been removed. This will mean that it is even safer for the children when online. Please can I remind parents to be mindful of what is said and done in the background of a lesson. We haven't yet had anything terrible happen like we see in some videos on social media and long may that continue.

Governor Election

We had two parents put their name forward for the Parent Governor role. An election will happen in due course. This will be done online and as an election like this hasn't been conducted before we are just sorting out the logistics. Watch this space.

Have a great weekend – there may be a little snow again on Sunday!



Stars of the Week

RS	RT	1P	1PR	2B	2G	3A
Zoe	Betty Sonny	Harrison	Abigail Alayna	Esther	Ashton Pippa	Joshua Lily-Jane
3B	4D	4K	5R	5S	6PA	
Charlie	Joshua/ Stanley Else	Ethan	Rayan Ben	Melek	Liam W Violet	



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