



**ADDMORE FEDERATION**  
**'Together we add more'**

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Kim Stokes

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sorry to be writing to you in yet another lockdown and with no clear indication when this will end. I had hoped that by now there may be clarity about what the position would be for after the February half term break, but unfortunately this is not the case. To that end, we are planning for the worst, while hoping for the best.

May I start by saying thank you to all our parents who are working hard to keep their children at home where they can, helping protect our staff as much as is possible. Our thoughts also to all our key workers, some of whom do not have the luxury of choosing to home educate their children, as they are needed on their front-line jobs. We really appreciate all your efforts however you are having to deal with this pandemic.

Formats for our planning and teaching are now in place and teachers have got into a daily rhythm of teaching delivery, review and feedback and live contact. Pupils are now following the same planned work, whether they are children of key workers in school or home-schooled pupils. You will find work uploaded on Seesaw daily – 3 hours for Early Years and Key Stage 1 and 4 hours for Key Stage 2 as directed by the DfE. As I have reiterated before, if you are struggling with your child's focus and concentration, try exercise and frequent planned brain breaks where you get up and move. Little and often is the key to fixing learning into memory, so a focused 15/20 minute session is better than a laboured hour.

Please upload your child work onto Seesaw for class teachers to see. Teachers will feedback with comments posted online. This uploaded work is one of the tools staff will use to assess how your child is doing and what to plan next for them. Many of you have also worked out how to post videos on the platform. These are great for us to use for assessments too. Getting your child to record a short clip of them reading is motivational for them and useful for the teacher.

Staff are leading daily Teams meetings so that the whole class can keep in contact, as well as using these sessions for teaching. Please do your best to join these sessions as these form a vital link for home-schooled pupils. You will also find video clips on Seesaw e.g. of staff reading stories, to create further 'face to face' catchups.

Staff are happy for you to contact them via email, but please be aware that due to teaching and planning commitments it may be at least 24 hrs before you get a reply. I have directed staff not to look at emails after hours, so that they maintain a work life balance and get a break before their next teaching commitments. If you have an urgent query, please contact the school via the school office rather than via teacher emails.

Best wishes to all our families. Keep safe and well,

Kim Stokes

Executive Headteacher





# NEWSLETTER

## Christian Value for January: Friendship

Having fun, playing and sharing; caring about each other and showing it; helping and supporting each other.



ISSUE 6

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Message from the Head:

Dear Parents, I am so sorry to be writing to you again in another lockdown.

We hope that those of you who are home schooling have settled into a daily pattern and are coping; and those who are key workers are managing the stresses of undertaking your key worker roles in this pandemic. Our thoughts and prayers are with you each day, as we strive to do our jobs to support you in the best ways we can. As you know there is no key indication yet when children may return to school, but we are all hoping it may be soon. January has been an extremely difficult month in school with staff absences and snow adding to the challenges.

You should now all be in regular contact with your child's class teacher through a combination of daily Teams meetings between your child and their teacher, fortnightly check-up phone calls, email or Teams meetings between parent and class teacher and daily feedback for your child on Seesaw following their work uploads.

If your child has special educational needs your child's teacher will be making further contact to review SEN targets before half term, and to offer additional support packs for learning.

If you have any worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office or via teacher email addresses given out earlier in the term. Thank you also to parents for your continued support. Keep safe.

**Mrs Stokes**

### Willow Class and Chestnut Class

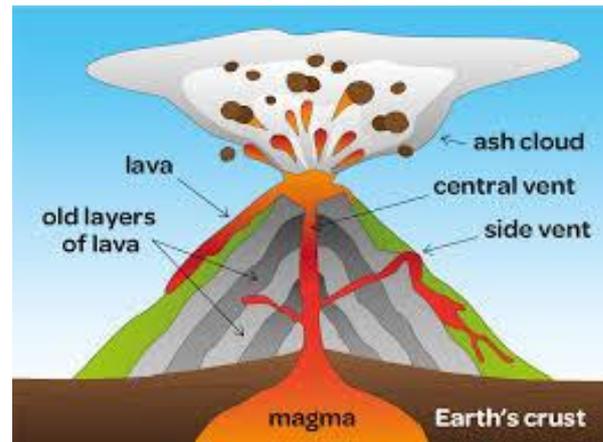
Willow and Chestnut Class have become explorers. They have packed their bags and headed off on an expedition to discover new places. In their geography sessions they have been learning about continents and explored the Amazon Rainforest in South America. In History they have begun to learn about explorers from the past. The keyworker group at school have had a great time going on an expedition and have discovered lots of new animals on



their rainforest mission. They even had to rescue a snake from quicksand!

### Oak Class

Oak Class's topic this half term is 'Rock and Roll'. Children have really started getting excited about



learning about the Stone Age in history. They will also be exploring how volcanoes are formed and what causes earthquakes, which has really got the children hooked. Miss Archer is aiming for children to create their own model 'working' volcanoes near the end of this half term.

The class will be going on outdoor expeditions to find their own rocks and learn about the formation of rocks and soil. Lots of science, history and geography to get to grips with this term to inspire awe and wonder and a love of learning.

### Sports News

Our usual timetable in school is for the children to do the 'Daily Mile' each day, usually first thing in the morning. This is 15 minutes of exercise – running/jogging – to get the body and mind woken up. We would highly recommend this as a strategy for your home learning. You don't need any specialist equipment, just a bit of space to run – laps or relays in the back garden would work well. The aim is to beat your own score of laps each day in the 15 minutes jogging period. Children do this at their own pace. The only rule we have is that you keep moving – even if it's walking.

Scientific research has shown that exercise aids concentration, so it is a good thing to do before settling down to school work.

