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Dear Parents/Guardians,

27th March 2020

I do hope you are all well and keeping safe.

As parents, you are vital partners in the work we do. I hope we can continue to work together this academic year and during this unprecedented time to build the already established, firm relationship between home and school. I truly believe 'Together we can make a Difference'.

The pupils have been remarkable in their approach to learning at home and I am hearing, from staff, of the fantastic work completed.

I will be sending you a fortnightly newsletter to keep you updated should there be any news or updates. It is also a great way to showcase some of the wonderful work produced by pupils across the school from Nursery to year 6. Below, the staff have provided a commentary describing what their year group have been working on.

We will continue to update the website to keep you all involved and staff will continue to make contact through texts and telephone calls.

Thank you for your continued support; I wish you a safe weekend.

With best wishes,

Mrs Mary D Brown
 Headteacher



Our daily prayer will be posted on our school website each day for you to share with your families.

Year 6

We have finished our first week of using Google Classroom and we couldn't be prouder of Year 6, and the hardworking, studious and keen approach the children have taken to their learning. We have provided the children with a range of English and Maths activities to complete; everything from their CGP packs, a diary entry oh how they have found their first week of learning from home, to the volume of cuboids. Ensuring that the children are taking rest breaks – and taking time out to relax and acclimatise to their new routine – has been our main priority and we have been bowled over by the dedication and enthusiasm they are displaying.

We have also provided children with a range of activities to continue other units of work from home. As part of our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) learning, we have received fantastic pitch letters for the, 'If you were an engineer, what would you be?' project. In History, children have been tasked with their first historical enquiry: to examine how life has changed within living memory... the list goes on!



This week, our children and their families have been invited to connect to their other faith families spiritually, even though we have to remain physically distant, by watching mass which is being live streamed from Middlesbrough Cathedral, every day.



Year 5

This week in year 5 the pupils have been accessing Google Classroom to complete maths activities linked to measures. It has been lovely to see so many of the children completing the science activity we set about air resistance and getting their families on board to help them carry out the investigation. We loved seeing the photos! We have also been researching Isaac Newton to write a biography in English as well as carrying on with our art and RE topics. We are so proud of all the pupils and how keen they have been to complete their tasks and work hard from home. Keep it up!



Year 3/4

This week, the children have been set a daily quick 10 minute Maths and English challenge on a morning to start their home learning day. The children have been enjoying completing these and have been commenting their answers on the Google Classroom stream. Teachers have been encouraging children to complete their paper home learning packs for this first week and have posted on the Google Classroom daily to remind children to complete a little Maths and English per day. Towards the end of Week 1, teachers have started to upload set Maths and English activities on the Google Classroom for the children to complete. Alongside Maths and English, the children have been enjoying other activities at home with their families. Many have been taking part in the 9am morning PE lesson with Joe Wicks. Also, children have been keeping active by going for walks/jogs with their family and dancing along to Oti Mabuse's daily online dance class. Teachers have been posting regular links to other activities such as virtual Science, Engineering and Computing lessons, Art lesson and Gardening lessons. The children have also enjoyed watching live streams from places such as Chester Zoo and have listened to David Walliams read a chapter of his popular book 'The World's Worst Children' every day. The children have been using the Google Classroom stream to keep in touch regularly with teachers and each other during this unprecedented time.

Year 2

In Year 2, children have been asked to work through their home learning packs alongside different curriculum activities, which have been set daily. For RE, an evening prayer was shared with children and a template provided for the children to write a prayer of their own. We also encouraged children to create a rainbow and display it in their window at home. In English, our children were asked to listen to David Walliams free audio book, *Grubby Gertrude for World's Worst Children*, and write a mini book review. Maths included, 'Number of the Day' problems, a mental maths test and Fun Bingo!

Year 1

In Year 1, we have loved receiving photographs of the children's work.



In English, we have been doing Little Red Riding Hood. Children have watched the video online and/or read the story, then thought of three questions they would like to ask Little Red Riding Hood or any other character in the story so far, including a question word (why, what, when, where, who, how) and a question mark.

In RE, children have listened to 'Do This In Memory of Me' by John Burland and made up actions to the song to perform to their family.



Reception

In Reception, we put up a post regarding communication / learning at home and how the parents can contact each teacher on Tapestry. We have been in contact with every class member and have commented daily on the children's work. Our caterpillars have also been introduced and are now living at Mrs McGuinness' house - and we have set work to go alongside this. Picture updates will be uploaded to Tapestry also with a challenge for children to access. There is also document with web links, daily exercise routines and links to educational sites to help with phonics and maths. Please see our Friday phonics challenge too!



Nursery

Encouraged by Mrs Bell's rainbows, lots of the Nursery children have been creating their own rainbows to display in their own windows, to help 'make people smile'. The children have also been baking, colouring, playing in their gardens, practising their cutting skills, counting, having their own dough discos - to name but a few of their play-based learning at home.

The children have also enjoyed daily updates from Mrs Bell of photos of the Nursery caterpillars and the children's beanstalks (planted a few weeks ago!) They have also enjoyed learning 'the 5 little caterpillars' counting rhyme.

