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Dear Parents and Carers,

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

On Monday we will be opening our doors to all children once again which has been long awaited for us all. I must reiterate my thanks and congratulations to you all for the part you have played in making remote learning the success that it has been. I am so proud of how everyone got to grips with Microsoft Teams and faced the challenges of online learning tasks. Parents, children and staff have done an amazing job, thank you and well done.

I know I speak on behalf of all of the staff when I say that we are looking forward to the children returning and classrooms being full again. We know that getting back to a little more normality is what everybody wants.

Of course, we will be carrying out assessments to assess the impact of lockdown on the children's learning. But, our main focus of the next three weeks is to ensure that children settle back into school and are ready for the challenges of learning once again. We will be prioritising children's wellbeing and positively building relationships between all children once again.

WORLD BOOK DAY HIGHLIGHTS FROM AROUND SCHOOL

We had a great World Book Day with the activities carried out with all children. It was great seeing the costumes children had chosen for their favourite characters. Here is some feedback from around the school:

Reception:

The children enjoyed sharing their costumes with their friends in school and at home through a teams call. They also enjoyed the yoga throughout the week which was linked to our book 'kids' yoga'. The staff enjoyed recording stories to share with the children both in class and at home. The children were able to guess the story from the picture clue.



Key Stage 1:

Year 1 and 2 had a parade at school to show off our costumes and favourite characters. We had a live session on Teams and everyone had the opportunity to show off their costume and favourite stories. We had an absolute ball and the children loved seeing one another's costumes, especially when they were characters from the same book!

Lower Key Stage 2:

For World Book Day 2021 Year 3 and 4 had a special online Q&A with local author Shaun McMahon. Shaun McMahon was blown away by the thought provoking questions and excitement shown towards his first book, Fowl. The children at home and the children in school were delighted to have this opportunity to interact with a published author. Shaun remarked that the children were 'very polite and a joy to talk to'.

Thank you for participating in World Book Day, it was fantastic to see so many children dressing up as their favourite book characters.

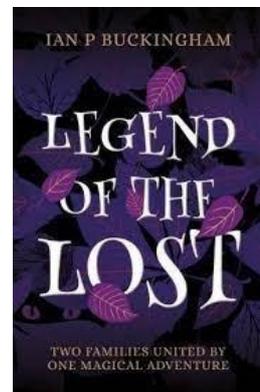
Upper Key Stage 2:

Upper Key Stage 2 have celebrated World Book Day again this year with a number of activities centred around the fantasy adventure, Legend of the Lost by Ian Buckingham.

Our oldest pupils learnt about a creative writing technique used by Ian, known as the 'story relay'. This collaborative writing exercise involves contributors taking it in turns to tell the next part of the story, while trying to shape their ideas to fit the plot.

The highlight of the day was an online Q&A meeting with Ian who read an extract from his book and answered many thought-provoking questions from the children.

"I particularly liked asking the author questions, doing the book quiz, writing the story and dressing up!" smiled Ellie in Year 5.



It was wonderful to see the written work and illustrated story-boards which were inspired by Ian's virtual visit.

HOMEWORK NEXT WEEK

Next week, there will be limited homework set across the school. The importance of reading at home remains, so we encourage you to read with your child as often as you can as well as encouraging your child to read as much as possible by themselves.

During next week, we will be reviewing how we set homework in the future, taking into consideration the online opportunities that we now have. I noticed from the parent opinion survey we ran in January that the opinion on our approach to homework is mixed across the school. More detailed feedback from you would be appreciated. Please [give us your feedback on homework](#) and we will take these into account when we are reviewing next week. Thank you.

KEY STAGE 2 MICROSOFT TEAMS CREDENTIALS

During next week, Key Stage 2 children will be introduced to an online platform that we will be using as part of our aim to provide personalised and engaging learning opportunities for all. This platform will require signing on but mirrors the login details of Microsoft Teams. Therefore, we are asking that you ensure your child knows their login details to Microsoft Teams to be able to access the new platform in school. If they do not know them, we will need to reset them in school.

TERM DATES 2021/22

You will have received a form today as we consult on a couple of changes to our planned training days for next academic year. Please complete and submit your form by next Friday 12th March so we can take your views into account. Thank you.

HOME TESTING KITS

You may have heard in the press recently that, from 1st March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly lateral flow test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus spreading and protect your loved ones. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease we all need to play our part to help protect each other.

This offer of testing is for adults only and should not be used on primary age school children. The guidance also states that, should a positive result be obtained, then the whole household will need to isolate and a confirmatory PC test carried out. A negative result does not guarantee you do not have the virus and therefore does not lessen the need for face coverings, social distancing and other mitigating safety precautions.

For further details, please visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website.

TOWN COUNCIL AND HIGHWAYS ENGLAND COMPETITION

Earlier this week, you received communication regarding the competition being run as a result of the Chowns Mill Roundabout roadworks. Please encourage your children to take part and have their entries submitted by 19th March.

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

Have a great weekend! We really do all look forward to seeing all children back to school on Monday.

Kind regards



Mr S. Dainty
Head Teacher