



Newsletter

20.3.2020

Dear Parents

Thank you so much for your kindness and understanding over the last few days. We have been following forever changing advice as the situation around Covid 19 has kept updating and you have all worked hand in hand with us to ensure the children, the staff and the school community have been kept safe.

As of the end of school today we will be closing the school to all but those who are classed as 'frontline workers' and 'vulnerable children'. It is with importance that, to support social distancing and reduce the spread of the virus, you should try to arrange childcare for your children from Monday onwards and work with us to support the Government's effort to reduce the spread of Covid 19. This should also extend to playdates and visiting friends. Trying to keep these things to a minimum is in everyone's benefit.

It has been with great pleasure that I have watched the children enjoying the sunshine today and hope that you find lots of moments to enjoy having your children at home with you. I hope the learning that the children can access on the class webpages provides you with both great learning activities and fun activities. If you have any questions regarding any of this please ring the school office, or email admin@greatwishford.wilts.sch.uk and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Above all, please keep well over the next few weeks and we will keep you updated with any new advice or helpful documents through our website and our emails to you.

I would like to add my thanks to the staff for keeping our school running calmly and with positivity; say well done to our children who have been amazing and really thought about handwashing and helping each other and add again, we really do appreciate your support, understanding and offers of help.

I look forward to seeing you all soon

Stephanie Cleaver

Websites to support learning

Blockly

<https://blockly.games>

Learn computer programming skills - fun and free.

Scratch

<https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/games/>

Creative computer programming

National Geographic Kids

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>

Activities and quizzes for younger kids.

Cbeebies Radio

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio>

Listening activities for the younger ones.

DK Find Out

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/?fbclid=IwAR2wJdpSJSeITf4do6aPhff8A3tAktnmpaxqZbkgudD49l71ep8-sjXmrac>

Activities and quizzes

Oxford Owl for Home

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>

Lots of free resources for Primary age

Blue Peter Badges

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges>

If you have a stamp and a nearby post box

The Imagination Tree

<https://theimaginationtree.com>

Creative art and craft activities for the very youngest.

Hopefully some of these will offer some activities to keep the children busy.

Thank you to Mrs Hopkins who has suggested London Zoo live webcams for those children who are interested in animals. I have had a look, it is lovely and great for discussion and wildlife learning.

School Logo competition

Our School Council have begun a competition with all the children in school to design a new school logo. The School Council visited all the classes yesterday and discussed what a logo was and the meaning each part of the design should have. For example, a tree was discussed with four parts, each representing one of our House Teams. The School Council explained the simpler the design the better as it will have to be reproduced in a number of different formats and sizes- and it must have the school name somewhere on it. The designs can be black and white, or colour at this point.

While the children are at home it would be a brilliant opportunity to help your child design a new school logo. Some of you will have worked with the school over a number of years and so your ideas would be gratefully received too.

English Support Ideas

How are you supporting remote learners with reading difficulties?

Introducing your solution: [FREE Parent ReaderPen Trials](#)

In response to recent school closures across the country, Scanning Pens is doing its best to ease the transition for students with reading difficulties.

For the first time ever, we're now offering parents **free trials**.

"The children love using their ReaderPens. They do think they're 'cool' – and so do their friends which has helped to boost self-esteem. Parents have even reported that the children have been talking about them at home."

Deputy Head, Derwentwater Primary School

The **text-to-speech** ReaderPens provide struggling readers access to printed materials while reducing their need for human reader reliance. Features like the built-in dictionary are able to support users wherever they are, requiring **NO WiFi**.

As Google partners, Scanning Pens supports Google Classroom and other online learning environments. Students can even make remote lessons easier by scanning printed text directly into Google or Word documents, **simplifying note-taking and saving time**.

Parents—[Trial the ReaderPen today](#)—don't forget to share this with your parent pals

Remote Learning

Our teachers will be using the class webpages to set work that the children can access during our school closure. These activities will be updated twice a week so there should be lots for the children to practise and continue their learning. There is no expectation that this work will be handed in to the teachers, it is our intention to provide you with some work that will both help fill the time and allow your children to continue their valuable learning.

One of the most important activities you can do with your child is read. Spend time together enjoying a book and asking questions to unpick hidden meanings and descriptions. Re design the front cover together- or re write the ending to make it much better than the original. For our younger children, our Owl Class webpage on our main website, has correct pronunciation of phonics on it. Using this, practising all the sounds each letter makes and blending them together to make real and pseudo words only helps to develop their early reading skills. The phonics play website has some free games you can access for support too.

Above all, have fun with your children. Baking and walking in the countryside are valuable life skills and learning activities.

Department for Education coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday)

Please note, we are currently experiencing high volumes of calls. We appreciate your patience at this time and apologise for any wait that you may experience. To ensure that we answer your calls as quickly as possible, we have now extended our opening hours to cover weekends and are increasing the number of call handlers available to answer your calls.