



NORTH TAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Sunday 3rd May 2020



Parents and Carers Lockdown Newsletter



AIM ASPIRE ACHIEVE

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope you are all staying safe and you and your family are well. As we enter another week of lockdown different challenges are presenting themselves. As we keep hearing, these are unprecedented times and we are all learning how best to manage the situation. We are following advice and guidance daily and we are constantly reviewing our practice, making the necessary alterations as events develop.

We have had an overwhelmingly positive response to our recent online teaching survey (please refer to Mrs Underwood's letter on Friday for more details). Our teachers are working very hard to ensure that all children feel valued and supported, and are offering a teaching timetable and range of activities to suit all situations. Each child is unique, and distance learning is not ideal for providing the bespoke services we are used to. We are continuing, as best as we can, to follow the age appropriate teaching requirements for the particular age groups, but are very mindful that every home is different and the children are not in a school setting. With that in mind, we have ensured that expectations are clear. Children who are fortunate to have the support at home are able to continue their studies using the many links provided, and are happily challenging themselves and working at quite a pace. For most families who are juggling work, family and the added pressure of trying to guide several children of differing ages through the timetable, we are offering guidance, support and help to explain when necessary.

This 'once in a generation' situation is a testing time for us all. We are all doing our absolute best to help each other. The teachers and I are here for you and a message directly to us will result in a response the following day, if not sooner. The teachers have worked hard to move from class based learning to online teaching at very short notice. They have done an absolutely sterling job whilst trying to cope with the same worrying issues that we are all dealing with. Our teachers are also working from home and face the same problems and challenges as everyone else, including technical issues, pets, and of course their own children! My aim is to work together to do what is best for each child and with your support, to navigate our way through this together. My plea to you is to get in touch with us directly if we can help with anything. The Dojo offers you the facility to message us directly. The office remains closed but both Mrs Adams and Mrs Cassels work and access emails daily – admin@ntcps.co.uk. Contact us.

We have received many, many messages of support and kind words of gratitude. We are very pleased to hear that so many of you are happy with our approach and the guidance we have provided. We thoroughly enjoy seeing all the wonderful and creative approaches you have taken

with the learning. You are certainly ingenious making learning as fun as you can! Above all, the children need to feel loved and safe and I can see that you are making this your number one priority. Thankfully, the lovely sunshine and the beautiful Devon countryside have helped to ease the pressure, reminding us all that we have much to be thankful for.

Online Learning

Despite the warning and the obligation to respect the work put on the Google Drive, two major incidents have meant that we are having to close down the current method of sharing work. A very small minority of children has deliberately altered and defaced the work placed on the drive. As a result of these very disrespectful acts have meant we will no longer be asking you to upload work using the Google Drive. The Class Teachers have communicated the new system directly to you via the Class Dojo. This will commence on Monday morning. So sorry, but this was necessary to safeguard the children and prevent further upset. I hope the change doesn't cause too much difficulty.

Reports

All the mid-year reports were emailed out on Friday. Thank you to the teachers and Mrs Cassels. This was another first – electronically posting each one was a mammoth task! If you have not received yours please do get in touch. Reports for Acorn and Oak are normally written at the end of the year, but circumstances this year will mean that they will be written sooner. Watch this space for the release date.

VE Day

See the Dojo for Miss Boyce's innovative ART celebration. Please do get involved.

Devon Junior Chess

Good news! As you may have seen in the newspaper, Chess in Schools and Communities is offering free Gold membership of chesskis.com for all primary school children to learn and play chess during lockdown. Follow the link if you are interested.

<http://chessinschools.co.uk>

Help is available

Domestic Violence

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/getting-help-for-domestic-violence/>

Money Advice

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/coronavirus-check-what-benefits-you-can-get/>

Autism Support

<https://www.priorygroup.com/blog/how-to-help-an-autistic-child-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Mental Health

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/top-tips-to-improve-your-mental-wellbeing/>

Stay safe

Miss Chauhan

Critical Workers Club – book in advance using Schoolcomms

Please do not enter the school.

The main gates will remain closed. A member of staff will collect the children at 9am. At the end of the session please wait at the gates for your children to be returned.

Thank you



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Marina Cassels has raised over £2000 for the Hearts of Hope.

Thank you, Marina you are our own Local Hero.

