



NORTH TAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Friday 7th May 2020



Parents and Carers Lockdown Newsletter

AIM ASPIRE ACHIEVE

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope that you are all well and staying safe. I am starting to fall into a routine, albeit a very different one. I miss the children, the friendly faces at the gate, my colleagues and friends, and the noise of a busy school. I am sure I am not the only one! The virtual meetings, alone in my office, are no substitute for the bustling, busy school, so full of happiness and laughter. That is why I am absolutely loving the many pictures of the children showing us how well they are managing at this difficult time. I am as thrilled to see the baking attempts, as the high quality poetry – keep them coming!

Thank you to all of you who managed to navigate your way to joining the Dojo and for registering the pupils. The work is easily uploaded and is a very safe and secure platform. The Dojo help page is superb and will show you how to improve the way you are able to communicate with the school. If your children attend the Critical Workers Club please make sure they know how to log into their accounts. This will especially helpful as we continue to follow the 2 metre rule.

Our teachers are amazing! I am so pleased that they have been able to adapt and maintain their high standards while offering the children an opportunities to experience a very wide range of activities. The teachers and I are very aware of the pressures you are under and we are happy to support you, working at your pace. Each child is different and every family situation is different. We are trying our absolute best to make sure that we recognise and respond to this. Managing some kind of normality and routine is essential and will make the return to school much easier.

The teachers are becoming increasingly inventive with their 'Star of the Week' video announcements. They are sporting bow ties, wigs and hats and even their pets are becoming a regular feature! What fun! Some weeks they find it so incredibly hard to choose just one pupil and sometimes choose two or even three! Keep participating and the teachers will recognise and make their choices each week. Look out – it could be you!

Face to face video calls are not an option at the moment but we are constantly thinking of ways to improve the support we are giving. Watch this space, and if new safe options are available we will consider them.

Reports

We hope you have all received your child's report (Y1–Y6). Please send your comments to the class teachers. Nursery and Oak Class reports are due out on May 22nd.

VE Day

Miss Boyce has been very impressed with the artwork that has been returned. We hope you are all able to celebrate this special occasion remembering it and marking the event in your own special way tomorrow. Look at the bunting that was created today.



Alf the Elf

Alf has been very busy and eventually managed to plant some sunflowers for you!! Come and collect one on Monday and look after it for him. They will be by the gate for you to collect when you are out and about on your daily walk.



Critical Workers Club – book in advance using Schoolcomms
Working with a reduced staff so please give us as much notice as possible.

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

Wishing you and your family all the best.

Miss Chauhan



Message from Mrs Underwood

As we move towards the Bank Holiday weekend, we expect to hear an announcement from the Prime Minister about plans which will guide leaders in how to bring children back together into school. Rumours and speculation about what is going to be announced are rife so it will be interesting to hear what the announcement will include. However, return to school is likely to be phased and gradual. This is the basis on which we are developing our planning, as Three Hares Leaders.

I wanted to reassure you that we continue to be very mindful of the concerns, anxieties and nervousness that the suggestion of return may cause to many of our families and indeed our staff. I want to assure you that our paramount concern will be the **safety, health and well-being** of our whole school community. Since lockdown began in March, we have been talking and planning about how to return, with excellent support from the DMAT executive leads, through frequent virtual meetings and phone calls.

We will listen carefully to the government guidance delivered on Sunday, and assimilate it in to our plans for return. We are taking account and integrating guidance from a variety of sources already, not least sharing thoughts across our DMAT schools. We expect to continue developing our home-learning offer, to ensure that the needs of all children and families are met through virtual schooling. Indeed today, I

have initiated a partnership with an EdTech Demonstrator Programme to develop the use of technology which will enhance the curriculum provision for our staff and teachers.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a restful and happy, long weekend and I hope you are able to enjoy some of the VE Day celebrations. We will all have to save the street parties for another day in the future! Stay safe and well.

With my very best wishes

Elizabeth Underwood