



Firstly, I would like to wish all families a Happy New Year. My thoughts were with the children and families of Heathmere over the Christmas break and I hope that everyone was able to find a way to enjoy the time away from school. On behalf of the staff, thank you for the generous gifts that many parents gave. It is never expected but always appreciated.

Coronavirus Update

As you will all be aware, school is closed to most children. This will remain until at least February half term – I will keep you updated.

Remote Learning

The teachers are telling me that parents generally prefer the remote learning offer that the children are accessing this time around. Thank you to all those parents who are helping their children at home. As time progresses, we will keep our plan updated to help keep the children motivated!

The government have given guidelines on how much time children should be learning at home:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Year 3 – Year 6 (KS2) | 4 hours per day |
| Year 1 – Year 2 (KS1) | 3 hours per day |
| Nursery and Rec (EYFS) | Less than 3 hrs per day |

Next week, we will be moving away from Pobble and using the Oak Academy lessons for literacy, as well as topic. The information will be in your daily email.

Funky Moves Dance

There will be live dance lessons every Tuesday so please make sure your children attend! You will receive the Zoom link on Tuesday. It will be a different link to the one you receive for the daily meeting.

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 9.30 – 10.30 | Y3 and Y4 |
| 11.00 – 12.00 | Nursery and Reception |
| 12.30 – 1.30 | Y5 and Y6 |
| 2.00 – 3.00 | Y1 and Y2 |

If you have a class meeting with another child at the same time, please try to attend both. If you only have one device, the class meeting takes priority please. You can then join/leave the dance part way through for your other child.

| | Events | Clubs |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Monday 11 th January | Change reading books 10am – 11.30am or 1pm – 2.30pm | No clubs this week |
| Tuesday 12 th January | Funky Moves Dance sessions | |
| Wednesday 13 th January | | |
| Thursday 14 th January | | |
| Friday 15 th January | | |

School Improvement

On Tuesday, the teachers learnt how to use wireless headsets to support the children with their curriculum development. They are provided by Now Press Play and I think the children will find them a great way to bring the curriculum alive – especially as we can't attend school trips. The Year 6 bubble have already tried them out with good success. Check out the school twitter for photos! @heathmereschool

Reading Books

Parents can attend school every Monday to change their children's reading books. Please enter through the Hyacinth Road Gate 10am – 11.30am or 1pm – 2.30pm.

Devices

Judy and I have been working hard to make sure that every family has at least one device in the home. We have prioritised our devices in the following order:

1. Children who can only access learning using a phone
2. Children who are sharing a tablet/laptop with two or more siblings
3. Children who are sharing a tablet/laptop with one other sibling

For those children who are in the first category, we are starting by lending devices to the oldest children. I am waiting for 36 more devices to be delivered by the DfE; once these arrive, I will start lending them to the rest of children in category 1 and then prioritise the largest families first who are in category 2. If you have any queries about this, please phone or email Judy in the front office.

Please also note that while it is easier for your children to learn using a tablet or laptop, our remote learning plan can be accessed using a smart phone.

Data

If you don't have wifi and run out of 4G data, please contact Judy for help.