

JOPS News



Note from Mrs Durrant 29th January 2021

Dear Parents,

It's been an eventful week with the announcement that schools will not open before 8th March 2021 at the earliest. This was not the news that any of us wanted to hear however, the government must feel that it is necessary at this time. Please see their message below. Staff working in school have started the government self-testing scheme this week and will be testing themselves twice a week.

Next week we have a few new and exciting things for the children which Mrs Wagstaff has mentioned in the newsletter this week. Hopefully this will bring a change and an air of excitement for the children who have been working tirelessly at home for the last month.

Please take a look at our Facebook page or website for our recent posts including daily story times, Bake with Gates and other exciting challenges.

Finally, I would like to say how proud I am of all of our staff for the work they are doing at the moment. For the ones who are on the front line with our vulnerable and key worker children as well as the staff controlling the remote learning and welfare calls from home. They too are juggling their own lives as everyone is, however they continue to be so positive, flexible, nurturing and committed to our children and I sure you will join me in thanking them.

Have good weekend and please take care.

For up to date advice and guidance please visit [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance and support - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19)



Parents Virtual Drop-in sessions

Last week we attached a poster from the NHS offering virtual drop-in sessions. They are available to talk about many issues you may be facing with your child – worries, anger, emotions, sleep and bullying. This is just to remind you that the next drop-in session is Thursday 25th 2021 between 9:00am and 1:00pm. You can book a 15 minute slot by following the link below

<https://nelft2.webex.com/meet/trevor.watson>

Please note: these sessions are for students who are not currently under CAMHS. If a child already has an allocated CAMHS Clinician, parents/carers should liaise with them about any queries they have as they will be able to best support them.

This week the Prime Minister announced that they hope it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools and colleges from Monday 8th March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity. If the Government achieves its target of vaccinating everyone in the four most vulnerable groups with their first dose by 15th February then those groups will have developed immunity from the virus around three weeks later, that is by 8th March. It is for this reason that we hope it will therefore be safe to commence the reopening of schools from Monday 8th March. Education settings, as well as students, parents and carers will be given at least two weeks' notice to prepare for a return to face-to-face education. Schools and colleges will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers after February half-term, as they are now. All other pupils will continue to receive high quality remote education at home. This is in line with the wider national lockdown measures to help minimise the spread of the virus and respond quickly to the new variant.

Dear parents,

Well done for surviving another successful week of home learning. A few tweaks for you to be aware of for next week...

Mote voice notes

Some teachers this week have been trialling using voice notes to leave comments on pupils work and give feedback. This has been well received by the pupils and parents of those children so far. Teachers will not be using Mote voice notes in place of written feedback on one maths, English and topic lesson per week. Some teachers may decide to use it more often when needed, but all pupils can expect to receive the above as a minimum. These notes may also be added to teaching slides and to the class stream. Please just click on the purple play icon to hear them.

Google meets

These sessions, where children can log into a live meet with the teacher within a certain hour of each day, were attended by only a handful this week. They were helpful to a few but most questions by children were answered easily on the Google classroom stream. We are going to continue this for another week and review their use for the last week of half term. They will be the same times as this week and the links will go onto the children's stream on the Google Classroom.

Submitting work from days prior

When marking work, teachers will check one day prior in order to respond to any work which was submitted later in the day or evening. Some pupils have tried to catch up on tasks set from more than 1 day prior, and submitted this on the day the work was set, and therefore it is being missed and not marked. If you are submitting work from more than one day ago, then please can it be submitted with the current day's work. This way teachers will still be able to see this. We do not encourage that children try to catch up on missed tasks from more than 1 day before, and suggest you move on and tackle the days work instead. If you are struggling with completing all tasks then please give priority to maths, English and reading. If you need to discuss this then please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher via the office.

Zoom sessions

Please see next week's timetable <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uWff-giDola9Tp-a-GqIAtCFAV27WRjyUwCqsQBDWH8/edit>

The links and codes for meetings will be posted onto the Google Classroom on the morning of the session. Next week's theme is jokes, riddles and funny stories, so please can the children come prepared with something to share if they so wish. For Reception, the theme is a guessing game.

As the zoom meeting is 40 minutes out of the day, the amount of work scheduled that day will be reduced by one task in order to reflect this and replaced with a shorter session such as handwriting, spelling, TT Rockstars or independent Purple Mash activities. Mrs Durrant will also be hosting class zoom sessions over the next two weeks and the times and links are in the link above.

Headteacher Shout outs

Next week for every child who gets onto the daily Shout Outs with Mrs Durrant they will get a raffle ticket and put into the grand draw. There will be a prize drawn every Friday and Mrs Durrant will tell the children more about it next week.

Keep up the great work, take care and stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all (virtually) next week.

Mrs Rachel Wagstaff

Deputy Headteacher

The James Oglethorpe Primary School

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