

Blackwater Newsletter



Friday 29th January 2020

ISSUE 11

Dear Parents and children,

We hope everyone has had a good week and that you are all keeping safe and looking after yourselves, and to those of you who are unwell, we wish you a speedy recovery.

It has been really great to see the fantastic work your children have all been doing at home over the past week. We now have almost every child accessing their education at home or at school. Our assemblies are an absolute pleasure to watch, with all the children being part of the school, together again.

We have listened carefully to your views on the parent survey and we are going to make small changes to our already comprehensive remote learning plan to suit OUR children and families. The main one to note there will be more live workshops to support the children access their learning at home. Please see Page 2 and 3 for more details.

Can I also suggest that it might be a good idea for children to buddy up and work together with some of their learning virtually. We know a handful of the Wheal Luna children have been doing this and it is really helping to keep the children motivated.

As we start to look forward to Spring, we have plans to put up our polytunnel in the coming weeks. We also are thinking of how we can develop our wilder areas , with wildlife corridors, additional trees and giving our pond a good clean out. We hope when the children do return, we will be raring to go with all of our projects. We have recently won a bid for £5000 (linked with Cornwall Council and the Eden Project) to further develop our outdoor environment , more details to follow!

You will also notice that we are setting the children a 'BOB A JOB' challenge at home to raise money for new waterproofs for the children. We are hopeful to raise enough to replace all of the broken / ripped ones. Vacuuming, a spot of DIY, gardening, emptying the dishes, all counts. Please start putting your child to work!

I know I am repeating myself but I truly think you are doing an amazing job at home learning your children. It is such a challenging job to be both parent and teacher. I know I find it hard. Just for your information, Cornwall Council has created a section of their website to support emotional resilience for parents and carers. They want to support you and make sure you do not feel alone. The page is updated weekly to help you and your children. I particularly like the Anna Freud, Child in Mind Podcasts which help parents understand and manage child and family mental health problems.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/education-and-learning/coronavirus-advice-for-children-and-families/emotional-resilience-and-mental-health/emotional-resilience-for-parents-and-carers/>

We are hoping for news from the government regarding when will schools open fully, which they were hoping would be after half term but looks more likely now in March. We will continue to do everything we can to support your children with their education - above and beyond.

Best wishes

Mrs Evison

6 REASONS TO GO ON A WALK



Parent Survey Results



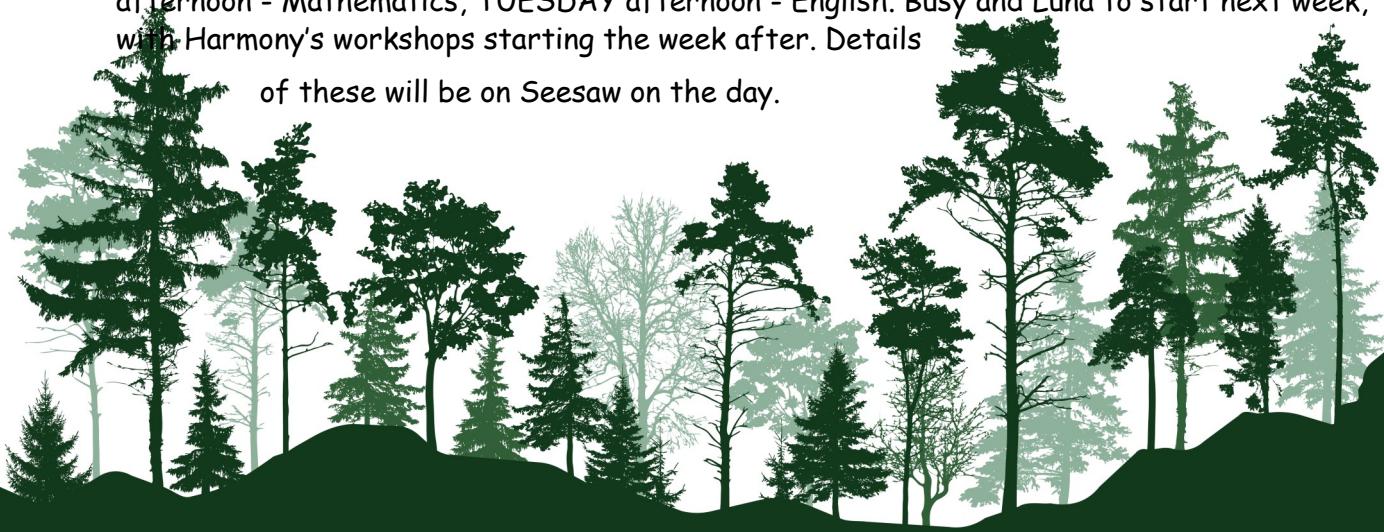
Thank you to all the families who took part in the parent survey. We had thirty responses which is a great turn out for a small school like us.

On the whole, you were all very positive and complementary about the way we have launched the remote learning again. You are happy with our platforms and the quantity of work, without feeling overwhelmed, knowing that we value the mental and emotional well-being first and foremost.

However there are some small changes we would like to make in line with your feedback. I hope you find they are positive changes and we will continue to make remote learning as accessible as possible for your children.

Changes:

1. When we post our daily plan on Seesaw, we will make sure it has all the **web links** to the White Rose, Oak Academy and also any Zoom meetings. This will hopefully mean you won't be struggling to find the different platforms in the morning. Because of this we will continue to email you the plans and resources, but also use Seesaw / Tapestry more for communication. We will not upload the plans onto the website as it seems you all use the other methods instead.
2. We will put the **learning packs out at 8am** rather than 10am so then you can collect first thing in the morning. Someone asked if they could go out on Friday and although a good idea, we want to leave it 72 hours after we have prepared them before giving them to you.
3. **Monday class assemblies** will be in the morning for all classes. We will be using zoom still and there will be a link on Seesaw / Tapestry to guide you. This will be a recurring meeting so the same passcode and login.
4. Many families put about distractors being one of the main barriers for learning at home. Please email me if you would like **to borrow some large over the head earphones** for your child. They might want to use them with some calming music whilst they work, or to concentrate more closely on the video links.
5. Two additional **live ZOOM 30 minute learning workshops** will be held each week as a way of supporting children's learning at home. These will be for Year 1 - Year 6: MONDAY afternoon - Mathematics, TUESDAY afternoon - English. Busy and Luna to start next week, with Harmony's workshops starting the week after. Details of these will be on Seesaw on the day.





6. To emphasise the importance we are putting on feeding back to the children at home, all **teachers will be out of the class in the afternoon** taking part in the live online workshops and also creating individual videos giving critical feedback for the children on Seesaw. We are putting just as much importance on the children at home as we are on the children at school.
7. **Teaching assistants will read one story a week** on Seesaw / Tapestry so then those strong relationships are maintained with all adults in the school.

I hope you agree that we have listened and acted upon your feedback. We are excited to continue to work with the children at home and at school to the best of our ability.

Here are a few of the answers from the survey. A more detailed version is on our website: http://www.blackwater.cornwall.sch.uk/web/parent_feedback/511231

1. Do you like the way that Blackwater is supporting home learning?

[More Details](#)

30
Responses



3. How many hours a day on average is your child spending doing home learning?

[More Details](#)

● None	0
● 1-2 hours	12
● 3-4 hours	15
● 4-5 hours	3
● More than 5	0



5. Do you find Tapestry / Seesaw easy to use?

[More Details](#)

28
Responses

2
No



8. How well do you feel your child is being supported by teachers and staff at school? (1=need more support 5=well supported)

[More Details](#)

30
Responses

4.33
Average Number

9. How is your child feeling at the moment? (1=unhappy 10=happy)

[More Details](#)

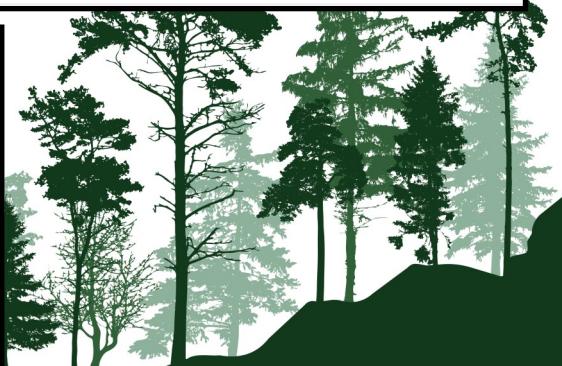
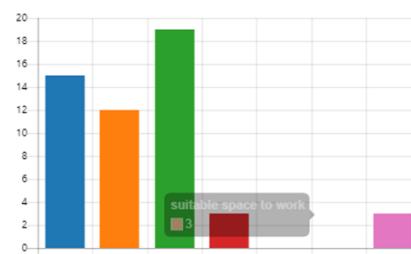
30
Responses

7.43
Average Number

10. What are the barriers to engaging in learning activities at home (select all that apply)

[More Details](#)

● Lack of motivation from my ch...	15
● lack of time for me as a parent...	12
● distractors at home	19
● suitable space to work in	3
● lack of access to online learnin...	0
● lack of internet access	0
● Other	3





**ON YOUR SIDE
NO MATTER WHAT**

0800 58 58 58 | THECALMZONE.NET/WEBCHAT
SPM-MIDNIGHT | FREE | CONFIDENTIAL | ANONYMOUS

CAMPAIN AGAINST LIVING MISERABLY CALM



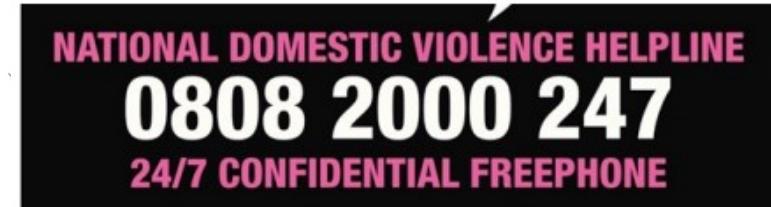
If you have any concerns or worries, you can always speak / email us at Blackwater. We are here for all the families in Blackwater.



NHS
Cornwall Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

The Trust has its own Out of Hours telephone support provided by Support Matters Cornwall. This service operates from 5pm to 9am on weekdays and 24 hours a day at weekends and bank holidays. The service is open to all patients (aged 16+) under the care of the Trust's mental health services. Support can be delivered over the telephone, via text, email or web chat. Call free on 0800 001 4330.

This is an unusual time and we are conscious that some people and families will be finding it difficult. We have included some helpline numbers on this page in case anyone finds them useful.



10 TOP TIPS

REMOTE LEARNING FOR PARENTS

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in difficult circumstances. For parents and carers, the idea of remote learning isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote learning experience.

1) Take an active interest in your child's learning

As a parent or carer, remote learning will be a new concept for your child and there are bound to be a few teething problems to start with. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.



2) Monitor your child's communication and online activity

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.



3) Establish a daily schedule and routine

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.



4) Encourage screen breaks away from devices

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teachers will invariably advise on screen breaks however it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.



5) Ensure your learning device is in a public space in the home

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.



6) Implement safety controls and privacy restrictions on apps and software

Dependant on how your school implements remote learning, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.



7) Ensure your child only uses official school communication channels

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.



8) Familiarise yourself with relevant school policies

Schools should have a policy on remote learning and direction that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.



9) Maintain feedback with teachers

Engage in communication with teachers where possible and try to feed back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.



10) Monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health

Remote learning will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as you can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends everyday might take its toll.





Next week it is Children's mental health week. Please look at this website for ideas and resources you can do with your children. <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>



W.B.
25th Jan

Learners of the Week

Wheal Friendly: Oliver L
Wheal Harmony: Milo G
Wheal Busy: Luca S
Wheal Luna: William D

Citizens of the Week

Wheal Friendly: Toby H
Wheal Harmony: Poppy S
Wheal Busy: Frank T
Wheal Luna: Mia E

Above and Beyond

Indy R
Bodhi R

KIND HANDS

Oscar B—great choices

Bella—kind friend

Well done to these children for showing excellent behaviour and learning attitudes. We are proud of you! Your certificate will be in the remote learning pack box on Monday at 10am along with a hot chocolate cone for you to enjoy at home.

WELL DONE TO :

- ⇒ Sophia K - passing her 22 Club
- ⇒ Jacob B - passing his Lion and 11 Club
- ⇒ Saffron - passing her 77 Club
- ⇒ Ned D - passing the 121 Club
- ⇒ Toby H - passing the 121 Club
- ⇒ Indy R - passing the 11 Club
- ⇒ Bodhi R - passing the 11 Club

Letters home

Big garden birdwatch
Home learning packs
Bob a Job
Borrowbox reading

Breakfast Club

Can I remind parents that if your child is attending school before 8:45am that we are no longer functioning like a 'Breakfast Club' with food due to health and safety reasons.

Please make sure your child eats before coming into school.

"Reading is like breathing in, and writing is like breathing out." Pam Allyn

