

Friday, 29th January 2021

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Mrs Bird and I have been receiving messages this week from teachers who are highlighting the amazing efforts that children, and their supporting parents, are sharing via TEAMS. We are able to comment to the children and their responses back are so polite. I am so impressed and grateful to you all for the effort you are making to ensure the children can continue to access learning online. Thank you so much. We know how challenging it is for you juggling work, several children and learning.

Unfortunately, there have been a few issues with a small minority of children, who are not upholding our school values whilst working online. We have three clear rules: Ready, Respectful and Safe. As examples; being ready for learning each day means not being in your PJs or eating your breakfast during a lesson. Muting someone else or removing them from a lesson shows a complete lack of respect and is unacceptable. Staff are continually updating their skills within this new remote learning world and following training last week they are now able to prevent this happening. However, children do need to take responsibility.

Staffing news:

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you that Mr Roy has been offered another position and will be leaving us at Easter.

I know that you will join me in wishing him every success in his new venture working as a school support advisor for Doodle Maths. I am hoping that, as we subscribe to Doodle Maths, we will be able to keep in close contact with Mr Roy.

Mr Roy will be sorely missed by us and I know he wants you all to know how much he has loved working with colleagues, engaging with parents and teaching many children over the last 11 years. An advert has been placed and we will let you know once an appointment has been made.

My hip operation date has been confirmed for during the half term break, however, I am required to self-isolate for two weeks prior to the operation. As a result, I will not be on site after today. The school will be very capably led by Mrs Bird during my absence. I know you will offer her the support and encouragement that you express to me.

Mr Withers, our CEO, had an accident over the weekend – he was knocked off his bicycle. He has sustained quite severe injuries, however is in good spirits. We send him our good wishes for a speedy recovery.

We have written to you about the review of onsite places. Please ensure that you read this important letter.

Some supportive resources: – these might help you this week – lots of ideas in the link.

Sometimes courage can be simple: we don't need to strive and strain too hard. Don't worry, take heart from these thoughts.



Nelson Mandela tells us: *"It always seems impossible until it's done."*

Alexander McCall Smith tells us: *"Be content with who you are and where you are, and do whatever you can do to bring to others such contentment,*



and joy, and understanding that you have managed to find yourself.”

https://treasures.valuesbasededucation.com/downloads/vibes_courage.pdf



Wishing you a safe weekend,

Mrs Gascoigne

Other News

Sir Linkalot Zoom demos next week

As you are aware, we have invested in an amazing app called Sir Linkalot that is transforming how spelling is taught, especially for those tricky common exception words, all the way from *was*, *two* and *they* up to *manoeuvre*, *fulfil* and even *onomatopoeia*! The app is achieving incredible results, particularly for those children who find spelling an issue.

Sir Linkalot himself will be hosting two fun-filled interactive 30 minute Zoom demos next Tuesday which we would love you to hop on to with your children. He'll be showing you how to get the most out of it during lockdown and the children really engage with him.

3.30pm: Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZw5f-irqTwaGdD1Wcyk8MlrFxxW367lR8cT>

5.00pm: Years 3 to 6
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtcuigrDgpHNx0YqzS2YMRyR_wZqg4jIj

NB You need to click on the invitation to register as there are a limited number of spaces.

Sir Linkalot is a high-octane individual who is passionate about his subject. If you and your children can make it, you are in for a treat. You will be blown away at what they will be spelling in the demo; it's going to change how spellings are taught.

Mrs O'Neill

Norland College is looking for new placement families!

If you need an extra pair of hands, you may be interested in hosting a Norland student placement. We're looking for families to support our students on their daily and residential placements in Spring and Summer 2021. If you live within an hour's drive of the Bath area and have a child under the age of two years who is at home full-time with you, you could be eligible. All placements are subject to government Covid guidance.

Are you or someone you know interested? Get in touch by emailing placements@norland.ac.uk to find out more information.