

Friday 20th March
2020



Heather Avenue Infant School Newsletter

Volume 54, Issue 10

This week has been full of change, each day has seen us responding to the daily guidance given in light of what can only be described as an unprecedented situation. As of today we have been instructed to close. We are sorry to do this but must in light of Government advice and so that we can work together to ensure that everybody is kept safe.

However. . . . we will still be open to the children of our key worker families and for our most vulnerable pupils. We have to be very strict on the Government definition of a key worker/vulnerable, as we work to reduce risk of anyone becoming ill or spreading infection.

We have been required to consider the needs of all our children, at school and beyond as we endeavour to support our families in anyway we can at this time. You will have been contacted this week by your child's class teacher to ensure that you are able to access the home learning set and ensure that we are able to make contact with you (and you with us) to ensure a supported home learning experience which will enable pupils to make progress in their learning and enjoy some activities at home.

It was wonderful to welcome some of the Year 1 parents on Monday afternoon, when Mrs Barker and Miss Dyball spoke about phonics in preparation for the phonics screening check, usually held in June, we know that this will not go ahead now. All of the children work so hard at developing their skills in recognising and blending sounds to make words, they quickly become confident readers also working hard on their understanding of the books that they read. We are so proud of the progress that all the children make with us and we really hope that you will continue to practice with the children at home.

On Thursday the children really enjoyed the FOHA Mother's Day Shop! This was their opportunity to pick a gift, wrap and write a tag for Mother's Day on Sunday. We wish you a wonderful weekend celebrating your special people.

We also have our FOHA Easter Raffle – thank you for all the wonderful donations that have enabled us to create fabulous Easter Hampers. Good luck in winning one of the fabulous prizes! Raffle prize winners will be announced later today.

Please do keep up to date with our various correspondences, which we will send via our website and app, text or email as we will endeavour to keep you informed as much as we possibly can in relation to school. We will have staff in school each day so please do feel free to phone or email if you need support with home learning or more generally.

Miss Palmer (our Teaching Assistant in Owls class) has this week announced, that she will be leaving at the end of this term as she moves to pastures new. Miss Palmer has been a fabulous support to many of the children at Heather Avenue and we will miss her very much – We all wish her the very best!

| Team Points for this Week | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Willow | 51 |
| Oak | 49 |
| Silver Birch | 48 |
| Scots Pine | 53 |

| Maths Whizz Certificates | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Owls | Lewis |
| Hedgehogs | Zeesha |
| Woodpeckers | Ethan |
| Rabbits (Yr. 1) | Zachary |
| Winning class | Woodpeckers |

| <u>ATTENDANCE AWARDS (Week ending 13.03.20)</u> | |
|---|-----|
| Owls | 94% |
| Hedgehogs | 93% |
| Woodpeckers | 96% |
| Rabbits | 98% |
| Squirrels | 92% |
| Government and Schools targets are for all children to achieve at least 96% attendance. | |

School App

We have a new app! Details have been sent out – please download the free app ‘School News’ to receive notifications from our school website.

Food/Essential item donations

We have a couple of collection points in school to help people in our community at this difficult time. Both collection points are in Reception next to Ms Cooke and Mrs Muff’s office. One collection point is for the Norwich Food Bank, where we will be taking the items that they most need to support them in helping families within our community and a second one for ‘Megan and Fynley’ who are kindly making hampers to support elderly people in our local community. If you can donate, please do, there will be a member of staff in the office each day should you want to bring a donation once we are shut. Thank you.