

Newsletter

30th April 2020



Shankhill C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents and Community,

What a wonderful week of sunshine we have had last week! I do hope that you were able to get outside and enjoy some of it - even if that meant not completing all of your learning - time outside in the garden, working on your farm or going for walks is so important for us all during lockdown and can bring about other learning opportunities as well as bringing a sense of calm and joy to us all. I am sure that the farming families out there were hoping for some well-needed rain to help with the crops. A mixture of the two would be nice - rain through the night and sunshine through the day - if only!

Communication

As well as email contact, teaching staff will phone home at least every fortnight to offer any assistance we can. It has been lovely speaking with you and your children, hearing those friendly voices again and catching up on what you have been up to. Please email if you would like to speak more frequently. Throughout our closure, we will endeavour to keep you updated via newsletters, emails and on our new website page where all email addresses and other useful information like making a booking at our Childcare Hub for essential key workers or applying for Free School Meals can be found here:

<https://www.shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk/information/coronavirus-update/>



This week, we are reintroducing 'stars of the week' nominated by your teachers and parents for those who have excelled, done something amazing, learnt a new skill, or simply completed their entire timetable of learning without one complaint! **Watch this space** → www.shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk/children/star-of-the-week/

Sharing Home Learning

It has been wonderful to hear from you all this week, either through emails or when your teacher rang you. The photographs we are receiving are brilliant and show that you have been working hard through different circumstances: some of you have routines of working through the timetables; others are having to share access to online devices and the internet with parents and siblings; some are busy working on their farms and some are enjoying the wonders of our great outdoors. We appreciate all that you are doing, and understand that every household is different and is managing learning in their own way, as best they can.

I will display more of your photos on our school website <https://www.shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk/children/gallery/>

Prioritising Basic Learning

As we begin week 4 of home learning, we know some of you are thriving and completing all tasks set for you. However, we also know that a few families are finding things trickier now, either to motivate your child or balance your time between work and supporting learning. Something I too confess to be finding tricky!

So alongside your weekly timetables that teachers are sending you, I am providing a list of the basics that we feel **MUST be done every day** to not only maintain your child's basic learning but to hopefully help them adjust more easily back into school life when we do return to school (whenever that may be) after what feels like the

"This school continues to be good... maintains good quality education... pupils gain a sense of achievement from their lessons... they display excellent attitudes towards their learning... behaviour in lessons and around school is impeccable... Staff are welcoming and inclusive... strong Christian values are promoted well... (results) well above that of other schools nationally" Ofsted 2019
Staff "strive to ensure that pupils are happy, while making education fun and enjoyable." Parent View 2018

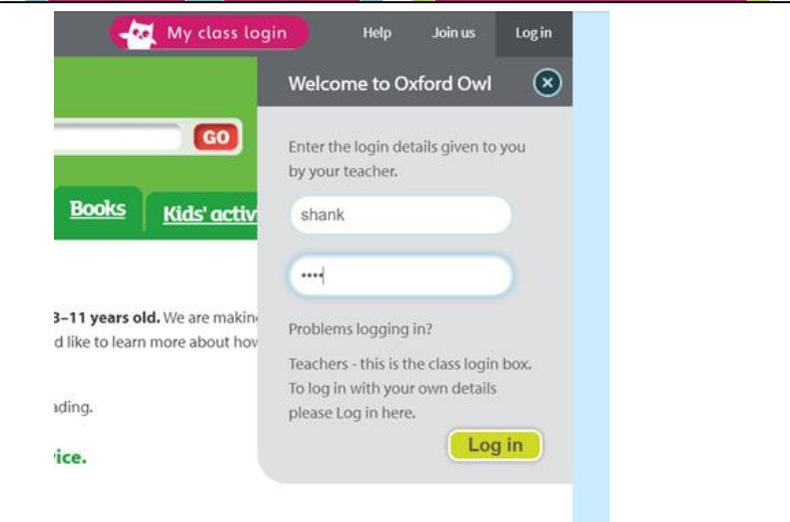


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strangest summer holiday yet! So if you are finding the timetables too much, or are simply having an off-day, please try to get these tasks done at least:

1. **Spelling practice** - even just the Look-Say-Cover-Write-Check (5 mins a day) and testing on a Friday so we can see how they're going. We can send a sheet each week for you to print, if that helps.
2. **Lexia** (or **Read Theory** if Lexia completed) - 20 minutes a day would cover some reading and writing skills at exactly your child's next step in learning. Reading a book daily helps too.
3. **Mathseeds** - 20 minutes a day, mixing up tasks between the lessons, driving tests and quizzes would cover basic maths at exactly their next step in learning (or **My Maths and Times Tables Rock Stars** for older children).
4. **Key ring sounds and words** - Class 1 children to practice these so you can read them instantly and spell them off by heart. Let your teacher know when they've mastered them and we can send more.

Your own School Library in 2 clicks!

<p>CLICK 1</p>	<p>https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/</p> 	
<p>CLICK 2</p>	<p>Click my class log in at the top right and enter: username: shank password: 1234</p>	

VE DAY

Next Friday, 8th May, marks the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe; the day we celebrate the end of all of the fighting in Europe during World War Two. Ordinarily, we would have a week of celebrations in school and learning linked to this leading up a garden party on the Friday afternoon. We are hoping to continue to do some of this as best we can next week so please look out for details within your new learning plan for week 5, and prepare for a garden party of your own, perhaps.

Later on in the evening, following the Queen's Speech at 9pm, there will be a National doorstep sing-a-long of Vera Lynn's We'll Meet Again. We will try to send a link for the song to let your children hear and learn it beforehand.

Well-being ~ How are we all feeling?

Thinking about our own well-being is equally as important as learning at the moment. So, if home learning does become a battle, then leave it and please let us know so we can try to support you. I know that for many of us, the rural isolation can be a positive in this situation, providing space and a sense of safety. However, the changes to everyone's lives during the last few weeks have been significant: changes in work, finances, social distancing, etc. Some of you may now find that because your circumstances have changed you are now eligible for Universal Credit which in turn can lead to Free School Meal vouchers of £15 per child, per week. See our website for details: <https://www.shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk/information/coronavirus-update/> The links there are for anyone to use and include links to the food bank too.

Some of you may be coping well emotionally, some may be finding it emotionally challenging. We would like to offer some support. If there is anything I can help you with, even just a moan, please get in contact with me via email at head@shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk.

In the meantime, here are some resources I have found that can help with how you and your children might be feeling at the moment:

[Younger Child friendly explanation of Covid-19](#). Click this link for a child friendly explanation of Covid-19. This may help you to explain about Covid-19 to younger children and help you understand how they are feeling.



Find reliable balanced information - look at the [BBC Newsround](#) site together to find young person friendly information and up- to-date news.

In school we meet Harold the Giraffe in our PSHE lessons and on the Life Education Bus each summer. In this link, Harold the Giraffe shares his daily diary to help with personal development and well-being. There's lovely, different ideas and activities here each day: <https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/harolds-daily-diary>



Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler have re-published some pages from their famous books with humorous topical comments, some of which you can share with your children to reinforce the messages scroll to April 4 on <https://twitter.com/TheRealGruffalo>

Happy News has some great ideas for exploring feelings and anxieties.

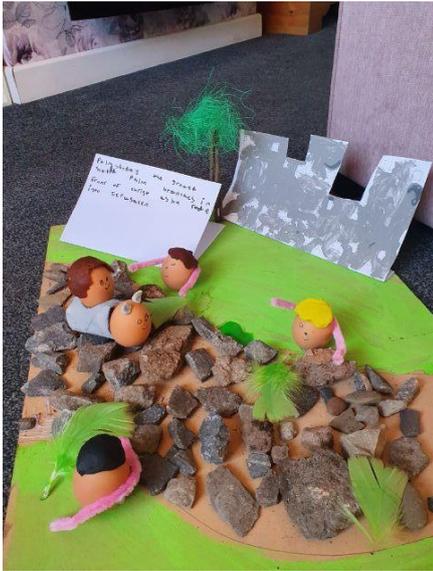
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Easter Quiz Sheet

Thank you to everyone who entered this (quite tricky) competition. Some of the entries remain in school and so the final results and prizes will follow as soon as we have access to them.

Easter Egg Competition 2020

This year's theme was the Easter Story.



Palm Sunday by Chrissy

We had five fantastic entries and so have awarded them all as winners!

Easter Eggs prizes will find their way to you soon.



The Last Supper by Hope



Jesus died on the cross by Will



Good Friday by Evie



Jesus has risen by Daniel N

We hope that everyone is staying safe and well. We are looking forward to when we can open the school gates once more to the Shankhill C of E family. Please continue to work happily at home and keep in contact with your class teachers.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Batey

Mrs Batey,
Head Teacher