

Mablins Lane Community Primary School

Newsletter ~ 27th March 2020

Dear Parents and Children,

I am writing this newsletter from home looking out in to my garden. Thankfully the sun is shining and it is a beautiful day. I think that most people will agree with me when I say that it is hard to understand the situation that we find ourselves in. These are uncharted waters and we must all pull together to find our way.

I have had many, many positive comments from parents regarding the way school managed the closure, prepared the children, has remained open for the children of key workers and has provided resources for the children. Thank you so much for all those comments. They mean a great deal. We have been working tirelessly as a school community to ensure the safety and well-being of all.

School Closure

On Wednesday 18th March we heard from the Government that the school would close to all pupils except the children of key workers, SEND and 'vulnerable children'. We had been anticipating this news and therefore began to roll out our plan by ensuring that children had passwords for key education sites, including our VLE. The work prepared was made available. We also made sure that we were ready to support those children who needed to attend school from Monday 23rd March. It was a difficult and busy time but the staff and children took the challenge in true Mablins style.

School OPEN!!

I returned to school on Monday 23rd March and we welcomed 58 children. On Tuesday there were only 21. Over the week the number has reduced as new legislation has been implemented and more organisations are closing. It is important to point out that we are offering a child care facility for Key Workers where there is no other availability for care.

The weather has been great and so we have managed to do lots outside. The staff have been in a rota and it has been good to work together. We have all joined in the 09:00 PE session with Joe Wickes and then taken on the daily mile!

Provision will continue next week where we are expecting about 10 children per day. Let's hope the sun will continue to shine.

FSM

The Government promised to support those families where pupils are entitled to a 'free school meal' (FSM). Because things are so hectic and moving at such a pace it has taken some time to get the envisaged voucher scheme in place.

We have over 80 children entitled to FSM on our list and we have contacted those families to offer support. If you feel that you should be on this list and have not registered then do not hesitate to contact us: admin@cheshireeast.gov.uk
head@mablinslane.cheshire.sch.uk

Once registered and we are back in school there is also an entitlement to 'Pupil Premium' monies which help to subsidise trips and visits which drastically reduces the cost to parents.

During this week the kitchen have been providing grab bags for our FSM children for collection at lunchtime. Some families have taken up, this offer and very much welcome the support.

Cheshire East are looking at further support and until we have more information the option of a daily grab bag will still be on offer.

Year 4 Anglesey Residential

It was with great sadness that the Year 4 visit to Anglesey had to be cancelled. We should have been there right now and what beautiful weather we would have experienced.

Mrs Jones has been busy in the office sorting out refunds which should be on their way back to you. Please bear with us as the system is slightly overloaded at this time. All other trips and visits were also cancelled and refunds for these visits are also on their way back to you.

School Council Visit

The School Council did manage to make their annual visit to Parliament. There was a great deal of hand washing throughout the day and additional measures taken with regard to health and safety. The Children, and staff, had a great day.

Work

Before the general school closure on Friday 20th March the staff took measures to ensure that pupils had passwords and log in details for several key education sites. The main access point will be through the VLE on

the school website. Should you be struggling with access then please let me know.

Each year group team has provided work and activities relevant for their classes. There is no expectation for parents to 'teach' their children. The activities are there for children to access and do as much or as little as possible.

Safety Online

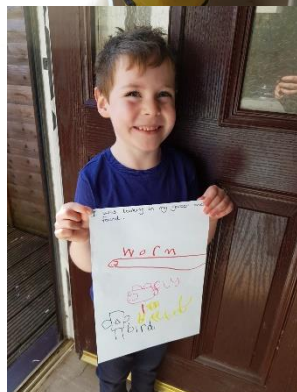
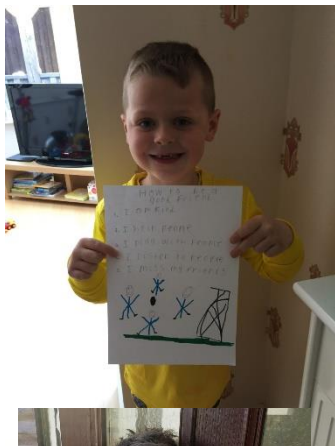
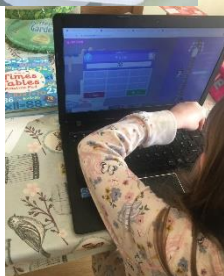
As part of our ongoing work to promote Keeping Safe Online, I would like to remind you of the helpful and informative resources which can be found in the 'Share Aware' section of the NSPCC website. This campaign is aimed at helping parents to keep their child safe on social networks. The campaign is particularly relevant for parents of children aged 8-12 and aims to give information and advice in a straightforward and no nonsense manner. I am providing the hyperlink below for your information: <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keepingchildren-safe/share-aware/>

Please check the e-safety section of our school website for more helpful websites and information about online safety.

Celebration of home learning work

Thank you so much for the work that has been shared so far! It is so lovely to see this work and that our Mablins children are enjoying their home activities. If you would like to share your learning too, then log in to the VLE pages on the school website or send your learning to deputy@mablinslane.cheshire.sch.uk.

We will share this learning on the website and on twitter, please let us know if you are happy for the work to be shared in this way.



Diary dates for Spring Term!

Suspended until further notice!

Thank you for taking the time to read our school newsletter and for your continued support. As we get any further information regarding the status of the school I will send this to you. In the meantime, continue to enjoy the lovely spring weather. Don't forget to change your clocks this weekend. The evenings will be lighter and there will be more opportunity to get outdoors. Long may it last!

With Kind Regards

Justine Joule
Headteacher