



# Parent Link

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Dear Parents and Carers,

My continued thanks to you all for working so hard during this period with many of your children at home, either for part of the week or the full week. I really appreciated the response of parents who were able to attend the forum meeting on Tuesday. Having a shared understanding of the situation we are facing and supporting each other to find solutions is key to our management of this period which, we hope, will be righted in the short to medium term by the vaccine that is now rolling out.

I am sure you are already aware of some of these points, but I wanted to remind you of some key messages:

- One way to reduce the number of contacts all those in school have is by bringing your child into school rather than s/he travelling on a taxi or minibus. Where there have been positive cases in the past, anyone in that kind of close proximity is highly likely to be affected. The LA are providing 4 way mileage reimbursement if you are able to bring your child in.
- If there are respite solutions that come from within your child's school bubble, this can prevent a crossing of bubbles
- We have significantly reduced the number of contacts within a bubble – this does mean that if a staff member becomes ill, we have much less flexibility to keep the class open, and that may mean offering remote learning only for a short period.

Thank you for your support with the above points.

We ran a successful day of testing a large proportion of the staff on Wednesday this week (all results were negative), and having learned some lessons from the day will be refining our practice for the weeks ahead. I'll keep you updated in regards to what we offer for pupils going forwards.

It feels like a strange time to be saying goodbye to one of our longest serving members of the team, but Lynn King leaves the school today. She has committed over 14 years of her working life to running the office at Downley, including Maplewood School prior to 2016. We are hugely grateful for the work she has done with us at school – not least the record breaking Christmas Bazaar she organised in 2019 – and the school will undoubtedly not be the same place without her. Whilst she has a couple of weeks before moving, she will be heading to Dorset in the near future. We wish her all the best with the move, and thank her for all the time and effort she has put into supporting the school.

Bradley Taylor (Headteacher)

## **Spring Term 2021 dates**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 12<sup>th</sup>

February 2021

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April  
2021

## **Other dates for parents:**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January – 10.00am - Parent  
Forum (virtual)

W / C Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February - Parents'  
evening (virtual)

## **Internet Security**

As we are all spending more time on the internet, we do need to be ever more careful around internet safety. This link is a website provided by NSPCC which is an online tool that is easy to read for parents and provides resources in a variety of languages this website informs you about popular sites, apps and games that children use. Wendy

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

[Net Aware: Your guide to social networks, apps and games](#)

Net Aware brings together the NSPCC's expertise in protecting children and O2's tech know-how, we've got everything you need to help you keep your kids safe online. Whether you're an online expert or you're unsure of where to start, we're here to help.

[www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)

## **News from around the school**

### **Little Wings**

A huge thank you to all the parents who have been incredibly supportive during another tricky period of lockdown; your continued support and active communication is gratefully received. Once again, we have been enormously impressed by your commitment to providing home learning to your children. Whether you are managing just one small task a day or are filling the days with endless activities, you should be very proud and I'm sure the children are benefitting greatly.

\* At 11am on Tuesday 19th January we will be hosting a Little Wings Parents Coffee Morning via Zoom. Please come and join us! Link details will be passed on via teachers. \* Claire

### **Treetops**

With all the recent changes I understand that having your students at home can provide lots of difficulties. I hope you have been able to attend some of the zoom sessions and complete some of the home learning tasks. Please do speak to your class teacher should you require further resources or activities. Have a good weekend. David

### **Gemstones**

The last few weeks have been tricky, the staff came in last Monday buzzing, wielding plans they had written for what promised to be an exciting term of face to face teaching. The virus had other plans... So we have now changed our teaching practice, dusted off the zoom codes, addressed envelopes and searched for phone numbers. We hope we can deliver the lessons we had planned in this new format and at least bring some of the excitement of school into your homes. Thank you for your support. Sarah

## **Message from the School Nurse**

To all Parents,

Please ensure that when your child comes into school with prescribed medication that you would like school staff to administer, that the pharmacy labels are correct and appropriate, and in line with your Parental permission requests. The dosage on the label should align with your parental permission slip, and medication should be in date. If tablets need to be crushed, halved, diluted etc the instructions should be on the pharmacy label.

In order to comply with improved safety requirements in line with NHS via Abbotts training for school staff:

- Any medication that is to be given via the gastrostomy must state on the label that it is permissible via this route.
- Please ask Doctors/Pharmacists to ensure that any medication that is to be given via gastrostomy clearly states on the label that this is the route through which the medicine should be given.
- CWS instruction from Abbott's training is that we will no longer be able to administer medication in school via a gastrostomy if the pharmacy label does not give permission to do so.

We are eager to ensure this is done to ensure the safety of your child is not compromised. However, we also understand that these are difficult times, and there may be delays with arranging this, so we have set a date for February 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 for this to be completed. After this date if the paperwork/prescription labels are not accurate, we will need parents to come to school to administer your child's medication.

The reason for the change in protocol is because there have been some very unpleasant incidences that have happened in care homes and we do not wish any of our children to be harmed as a result of similar situations.

Thank you for your anticipated support with this change. Helen Watts, Special School Nurse

### Falcon Class –Life Skills in class



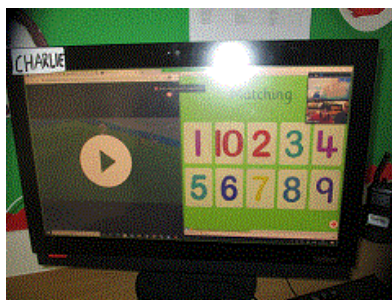
### Red Kite Class – Maths in class



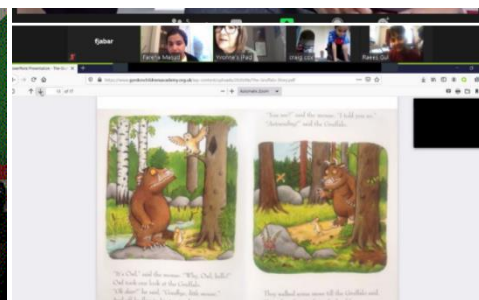
### Deer Class - Dough Gym via Zoom



### Treetops Department



### Squirrel Class –Story via Zoom



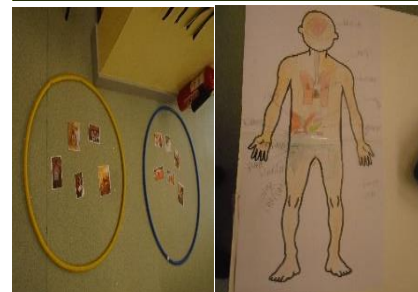
### Opal Class online Yoga class



### Sapphire Class Ice cube experiment at home



### Emerald Class sorting and learning about our bodies



### Hawk Class Cooking on Zoom



### Little Wings Department

