

The Pinner Park Post



Learning • Character • Community

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A New Start

As I watched the inauguration of President Joe Biden this week, I got a real sense of a 'fresh start'.

In January, we often consider a fresh start. For many of us, we start off the New Year with aims, ambitions and dreams. I aim to get fitter this year!

I am sure that for all of us our collective wish for this year is for Covid-19 to be under control. What an amazing effort is underway already to ensure everyone is vaccinated. We hope and pray that this programme continues to accelerate so that we can restore some sense of normality.



In the meantime, we will continue to work together to be safe, and to support one another. All of us are working in ways we never expected to. I met with some of our teacher leaders yesterday and they all commented that it was like starting a new job – so different to teaching in school.

During the presidential inauguration a young poet, Amanda Gorman, performed. If you didn't get the chance to see it, it is [worth a watch](#). It was such an uplifting moment.

*"The new dawn blooms as we free it.
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it."*

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes,

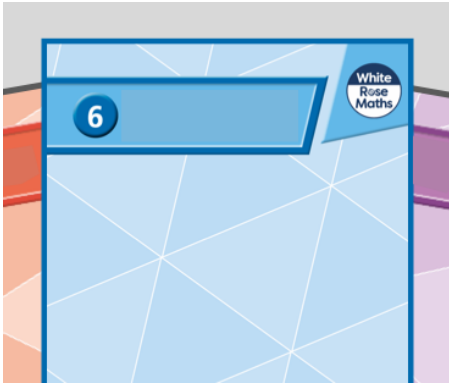
Nick Waldron

Headteacher

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White Rose Workbooks - UPDATE



To support parents and children, we have ordered White Rose Maths workbooks for every child in Years 1 – 6 (they are not available for Reception children).

The books are based on the White Rose Maths 'blocks'.

Year 3 and Year 5

The next block starts next week and we are expecting delivery of the books before 12.30pm today. Parents can collect from **1.30pm – 3.15pm today** or on Monday (8.45am – 11.45am or 1.30pm – 3.15pm).

Years 1, 2, 4 and 6

There is one more week left in the current block. We are expecting delivery of the new books by Wednesday next week. Parents can collect on Thursday or Friday next week (8.45am – 11.45am or 1.30pm – 3.15pm).

Please note that we will only allow one adult from each family onto the school site and we will be observing strict social distancing. You must wear a face covering. Please be prepared to wait at busy times.

Free School Meals during School Closure - UPDATE



Some of our children qualify for a free school meal because their parent receives qualifying benefits. During the period of school closure, we do not want any of those families to miss the opportunity to receive the meal they are entitled to.

We are continuing to provide vouchers for eligible families throughout the lockdown period. Today, have sent vouchers, £30 per child, to cover the next two week period. If your child is eligible for a benefits-related free school meal, please look out for an email or text. Parents of children eligible for a free school meal should have received an email or text message. If you have not received your voucher, please let us know.

A few parents have not yet used their most recent voucher (sent two weeks ago). Please let us know if you need any support accessing the voucher.

HM Government

CORONAVIRUS
STAY HOME
SAVE LIVES

Find out more at
gov.uk/coronavirus

NHS

STAY HOME
PROTECT
THE NHS
SAVE LIVES

Supporting your child with Remote Learning

Thank you for your continued support for remote learning. We have been very impressed with the way in which children have engaged with the learning, and they have needed your support to do so. We know this is not easy, so thank you so much for your time, effort and patience!



Support for Live Sessions

Please help your child to be online on time. If you have any challenges, please contact us by email or telephone so that we can help you. If you have a technical issue, please don't address this with the teacher in the lesson or use the chat function – however frustrating this is, the teaching staff need to focus on the class and the learning. Please give us a call and we will do our very best to help you.

Please allow your child to answer questions and respond to the online learning independently. Support them with the technology, if needed, but please don't prompt any answers or tell them what to say – our teachers and teaching assistants adapt their teaching according to the children's responses. This informal 'assessment' is a really important part of the teaching process – we really want to know what the children can do, not their parents!

Support Independent Learning – Having a Growth Mindset!

Outside of live sessions your child will need your support to complete the pre-recorded lessons and other activities on the schedule. Wherever possible, we really want to see your child's independent effort. It won't be perfect, and we wouldn't expect it to be. Part of having a 'growth mindset' is to learn from challenges and mistakes. Children who accept mistakes and difficulties as part of the learning process are much more likely to embrace new learning, to persevere, and to develop resilience. We want children to appreciate the benefits of good mistakes! If children don't appreciate mistakes as part of learning, they can become wary of taking risks with their learning and fearful of the consequences of making errors.

When teachers see your child's work, they also learn from children's mistakes. It enables them to spot misconceptions and to address them in class. It helps them to support children to accelerate their learning. If you need to support your child to answer a question, or to get started with something, please just add a note to the work so that the teacher knows. We don't want children to become 'stuck'!

A Note about Spelling

When children learn to read, write and spell, they learn through phonics – letters and sounds. At the start of their phonics journey, they learn one grapheme (a letter or a number of letters that represent a sound) for each sound (phoneme). This means that their spelling may look a little odd. For example, children may write 'play' as 'plai'. This is because they have only learned 'ai' as the way of writing that sound. When children in Reception write in this way, we are really pleased! It shows that they are hearing the sounds in the word, and writing down these sounds in the way they have been taught.

As children progress through Year 1, they will learn more and more alternative spellings. They'll learn that 'ay' is another way of writing that sound, for example. Spelling will become increasingly accurate – but not perfect! In Year 2 and beyond, children will become more and more accurate in their spelling as they continue to read more and write more.

Please resist the temptation to correct every spelling, especially for our younger children. This will hamper the writing process and slow down progress.

Yoo mai hav to ignor sum spelling erers when childrun are yunger!

Well Being Hub

During these strange times it is really important that we look after ourselves and each other.

We have prepared a good range of activities to support emotional well-being for our children and families. These are available through DB Primary. Click on the 'Well Being Hub' link which can be found on each of the remote learning communities (it looks like the image above).



On the Well Being Hub you'll see there are all sorts of ideas for your family, including 'Mindful Mondays' and 'Stretchy Saturdays'.

Weekly Schedules

We sent out a weekly schedule for each year group last weekend. We hope you have found this useful. We will send another schedule this weekend.

If you have any questions about the schedule please send an email to the year group email address.



Book a free, rapid Covid test (Over 16s)

Harrow has introduced Rapid COVID testing for people who are not showing any symptoms of COVID. Also known as a Lateral Flow Test (LFT), Rapid COVID testing gives a positive or negative COVID result in approximately 30-40 minutes.



You can book a free Rapid COVID test if:

- you do not have any symptoms of COVID and
- you are over 16 years old.

You can [book a free Rapid COVID](#) test using Harrow's online form.



You should not book a free Rapid COVID test if:

- you have symptoms of COVID (a high temperature, a new continuous cough, a loss or changed to your sense of smell or taste.)

If you have any symptoms of COVID you can [book a free PCR](#) test at one of the local testing sites.

For further information visit: <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/test>