

6<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents,

The children are continuing to enjoy our new exciting Learning Adventure 'Amazing Animal Adventures'.

The children in Foundation have been helping Farmer Bob and Farmer Mabel set up a farm park to rival Farmer Palmers. However, Farmer Mabel and Farmer Bob don't seem to know anything about farm animals, so the children have been teaching them all about them. This week, a swarm of bees arrived on the farm, which has caused a dilemma - Farmer Mabel wants to get rid of them but Farmer Bob wants to keep them. As a result, the children are learning more about bees, so they can help the farmers decide what to do with them.

In Year One, Casper Camouflage [wildlife TV presenter extraordinaire] has visited, asking the children to help him find out about different animals for his new and exciting TV show 'Amazing Animal Adventures'! So far, they have found out about elephants, tigers and hedgehogs, and this week they have flown to South America to research 'Dart Frogs' for the next episode.

In Year 2, the children have been helping to create a new wildlife TV show about animals from around the world. So far, they have visited a new continent each week, focussing on one or two of the native animals that live there. They have recently arrived in the freezing Antarctica, where they are exploring the Emperor Penguins.

Meanwhile, the children in Year 3 have been learning about animals found in their local area, such as hedgehogs and foxes. They have now been asked to create a programme all about the animals found in the Amazon Rainforest, by a representative from the BBC.

In Year 4, the children have become experts on animal classification, so that they can help the confused Phil Attenborough and his unruly sidekick John to create a new wildlife TV Show. They have also been learning about different habitats and how changes in these special places are impacting upon the creatures that live there.

As you can see, all of the year groups are engaging in fascinating inquiries linked to the theme. We will continue to keep you updated with how the Learning Adventure is developing across the school.

### **Home Learning**

Last week, we launched our new approach for the delivery of home learning, which will now be online via Microsoft Teams. Microsoft Teams is a secure app/website that includes a range of functions to support the delivery of learning when children are at home. You have recently received detailed information about how to use the new system including your child's username and password to enable them to access Microsoft Teams.

It has been lovely to see how many children have already submitted their home learning using the new system. Over the course of the year, weekly home learning will provide a balance of mathematics, English and Learning Adventure tasks. Some weeks the task will provide a set of questions, calculations, problems or writing activities for your child to complete. On other weeks, the task may be more open ended and will require your child to select the way that they wish to complete the task. All of the home learning tasks that are set will build upon the learning that your child has completed in school and will seek to build their Learning Hero skills, for example, showing curiosity, resilience, adaptability, creativity or teamwork.

As with any new approach, using Microsoft Teams may take a few weeks to get used to. If you are experiencing any problems, please contact your child's teacher via the school office email. Children can complete their learning either electronically (Word, PowerPoint, video etc - all of which can be uploaded on Microsoft teams) or they can complete their learning practically (writing/recording in their Home Learning Log or creating a piece of art work or a model) and a photo can be taken of their learning and then uploaded. To upload your child's home learning on Microsoft Teams, please go to 'Assignments' and click on the 'Turn in' button in the top right-hand corner of the screen. Your child's teacher will view and provide feedback on all of the home learning tasks that are uploaded.

Microsoft Teams will also be used to provide learning to those children who are required to self-isolate due to COVID-19. By using Microsoft Teams, your child will have access to the teaching screens that will be used in the classroom. It will also provide the opportunity for children to upload key pieces of learning and for the teacher to provide periodic feedback. If your child is self-isolating and they are in Years 1-4, your child will now receive their daily learning via Microsoft Teams, either the evening before or on the morning of the day that the tasks are to be completed. Further information for Foundation families will follow in due course.

### **Reading**

The children participate in regular reading opportunities and activities throughout the week in school. We greatly value the partnership between home and school and believe the time you spend supporting your child's learning can enhance their progress and development. Regular reading is vital and your support at home is much appreciated. Recently, children in Years 1 – 4 commenced taking reading books home. Many thanks to families for ensuring that your child's reading book bag has come into school on the correct days [Thursday and Monday] and for enabling the book quarantine system to work effectively. It is important that reading books are returned to school on the correct day to ensure that all children are able to receive new reading materials on a weekly basis. In addition, if your child requires additional reading materials during the week, they can go to the Oxford Owl website to access a range of eBooks [you should have received login details for Oxford Owl last week]. They can also continue to access a wide range of reading materials and resources, whether that is books you have at home or from the local library. Information about early reading will be provided for those children in our Early Years Foundation Stage base soon.

### **Playtimes, PE and Outdoor Learning**

Now that the colder and wetter weather is here, please could you ensure that your child brings a coat to school, as we aim for the children to go out to play and get some fresh air every day. We would also be grateful if you could ensure that your child has suitable clothing for outdoor PE and learning, such as, wellington boots, leggings/jogging bottoms and waterproof outer layer.

### **Staggered Drop off and Collection**

Thank you to everyone for continuing to keep to the school's new staggered system for school drop off and collection times, including the use of the one-way system on the playground, maintaining appropriate social distancing and ensuring only one person accompanies your child to school. If you have any messages for your child's teacher, please contact them via the school office email, rather than relaying messages on the door in the morning - this will help to ensure that the staggered timings work effectively. Your support and cooperation is appreciated.

### **School Office and Messages for Staff**

A reminder that the school office is only partially open to parents and visitors and we ask that you refrain from visiting the school office wherever this can be avoided. In the first instance, we request that all communications are made via email or phone to the school office, including any messages for your child's teacher. A telephone appointment to speak with a member of staff will be made for you if necessary. If you need to visit the school office for essential reasons [or if agreed with a member of the school office], the entrance area has been marked with physical/social distancing demarcations and there is a taped line by the office window to ensure the appropriate social/physical distance is in place. In the office foyer, there are two boxes/containers, one for paperwork, such as, letters/permission slips, and one for objects/parcels. Entrance to other areas of the school will not be permitted, unless by prior agreement/appointment. We would be grateful if you could wear a face mask /covering when visiting the school office, unless you have a medical exemption.

### **Coronavirus [Covid-19] Guidance [Please see separate letter for more detailed information.]**

Please remember that if your child or any member of the household have symptoms of coronavirus infection [COVID-19], **however mild**, you will all need to stay at home for 14 days from when the symptoms started. The most common symptoms of coronavirus [COVID-19] are:

- **High temperature [feels hot to touch on the back or chest – a temperature of 37.6 degrees and above]**
- **New continuous cough [this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)]**
- **Loss or change to your normal sense of smell or taste [anosmia]**

More detail of the symptoms can be found: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

If your child appears to present with any of these symptoms when they are in school, we will contact you and you will be advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

You can seek further medical advice from NHS 111 and you can also use the Department for Education coronavirus helpline, which is available to answer questions about COVID-19 on T: 0800 046 8687. The helpline is open between 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) and 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday).

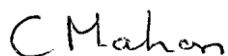
You will need to be able to collect your child if we are unable to look after them safely due to staff absence, or there is a suspected/confirmed case.

#### **Finally**

A reminder that on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October there will be a staff training day and that the half term break commences on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October.

The school will continue to keep you updated as the situation develops or changes and more information is available. We appreciate your support in helping us to sustain the safety and wellbeing of our whole school community.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Mahon  
Headteacher