



Small School Big Ideas

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**A Nut Free School**

20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you all managed to enjoy your Easter, even though things are very different at the moment. Once again, it feels very strange writing a newsletter when school is closed, but I am aiming to write one each week as normal to keep you updated.

You may have seen the Education Secretary's broadcast yesterday, when he said that he cannot give a date for our return to school. As things stand, we will continue as we are, with our school site closed, but offering provision for children of keyworkers through our link with other schools in the cluster. As from today, we are joining with Fishergate Primary and St.Oswald's CE Primary on the St Oswald's site. Should your family situation change and you become a key worker needing a place for your child, please contact our school email address and we will work together to secure a place.

The teachers have each posted a message for you on Seesaw today about how we will proceed with 'home learning'. Please read this and encourage your child to take part, although as I said last time, we are all very aware that some of you are also working from home or have more than one child to work with, so please just do your best. When I logged on to Seesaw this morning, there were 71 posts, which was very encouraging! If you have not yet managed to post anything on there, please try to do so this week as it is a super way to keep in touch.

### **TTRockstars (Y1-6)**

Another reminder to make sure your child keeps using Rockstars to keep their times table knowledge going and to build up their speed and stamina. A few parents have asked about Mathletics but I am afraid we cancelled our subscription in March as it was proving too expensive and only a few families were using it.

### **Wellbeing**

As mentioned last time, the NSPCC has created a new webpage with information and advice for parents or carers who are worried a child or young person may be struggling with their mental health or has anxiety about Coronavirus. The webpage includes information on: talking about feelings and worries; keeping in touch and balancing screen time; ways to create structure and routine; and helping to give children a sense of control. Visit the NSPCC website for more details.

### **School History Project**

Thankyou to those children who have responded to the school log book pages posted on the website and seesaw. Look out for more this week. A member of the village

Compassion Trust Perseverance

Facebook page has asked for more recent pages from a time when they were at school so I may look for them next and see if we can get some interest in the village from former pupils, so watch this space!

### **Easter Egg Competition**

Thank you to those children who have entered our annual competition. Don't forget to email school with your entries by 5pm **today**.

### **From my window' project**

Again, thank you for the families who undertook this challenge. It has been really interesting reading the responses and I will be posting them on our website this week.

### **Storytelling at 1pm**

We have been asked by a certain parent known to do a spot of street entertainment (I will leave it up to you to guess who!) to promote 'Covent Garden Stories'. Each day a talented performer reads their favourite children's story on Youtube and it also includes some footage of their show and some tricks thrown in too. Visit [coventgardenstories.com](http://coventgardenstories.com) for more information and prepare to be entertained!

### **Storytelling competition**

Talking of stories....here are details of a local competition to enter:

'Bookcase For All' is delighted to announce their first ever short story competition. Open to children of all ages we are looking for a short story on any topic from Easter to Elephants, Pirates to Penguins, Daffodils to Door Knockers, whatever you would like to write we would like to read. There are two age categories 5 – 9 and 10 – 14 and we are looking for stories of up to 500 words.

The competition is going to be judged by three local Children's authors: Karen Langtree – author of Knights of the Wobbly Table; Fiona Shaw – author of the Outwalkers and Harry Whittaker – debut book being released in 2021

First prize in each category will be a book token, there will also be runners up prizes and all the prize winning stories will be published on our website and social media pages. To enter either email [bookcaseforall@hotmail.com](mailto:bookcaseforall@hotmail.com) or post your entry to Bookcase For All Competition, 4 Orchard Way, York. YO24 2NU by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Include the author name and age, plus a contact name and email or phone number. Further details are on our website. <https://bookcaseforall.co.uk/short-story-competition/>

### **Contact with school**

Please remember that the admin team and I can be contacted on the school email address and both this and the school telephone answer machine will be monitored daily on weekdays, even though school is closed.

The teachers and I can also be messaged directly via Seesaw on weekdays should you have any concerns. We will be trying to work 'normal' school hours as much as possible, together with sorting out our own families and working at St. Oswald's on some days, so please bear with us if a reply is not immediate!

Keep safe everyone,  
Brenda Christison Headteacher