



Head of School's Introduction

This week's newsletter is a fairly slimmed down version I'm afraid but nevertheless contains some important information that you may find useful.

As always, I am going around the school and looking at your child's home learning and am so pleased with everything I'm seeing. The children seem really engaged and happy and this is all we can ask.

We are currently about to head into our third week of lockdown and I hope everyone is doing well and not feeling the pressure too much with life and work responsibilities. I know however that this may not be the case so, if there is anything we can do to support you or your family, please let us know and we will endeavour to help you as best as we can.

Enjoy your weekend as best as you can and we'll see you next week either digitally or in person.

Take care.

Mr White

Weekly News

Word of the Week – Perseverance

Following my assembly on Monday, it was brilliant to see so many children and parents persevering during the course of the week. Whether it be home learning, snow people making, parachute designing or just simply getting through the week, it was lovely to see everyone employing this word in everyday life as well as you reinforcing this with your child if the going got tough.

Look out on Monday for next week's word.

New: Home Learning

It's been brilliant to see the interaction so far with home learning. Both children and parents have been posting and commenting on work as well as uploading pictures and videos to show how you're all getting on. Please keep this coming. We love this interaction and are looking forward to seeing more of this in the coming weeks on Tapestry and Google Classroom.

As during the lock down last year, it's not always possible for the teachers to use the school phone line to contact you so calls from us may come up as 'no caller id' on your phone.

New: Parent Support

The Educational Psychology team are running a weekly helpline for parents again this term. Please see the flyer attached. The helpline will run on Wednesday mornings 9am – 11.30 am from January until March (finishing at the start of the Easter holidays). It is no longer just for COVID but it is also for short consultations (approx. 30 mins) about specific concerns re well-being or learning but not complex issues which involve other services.

New: Google Slides

We have had some reports that some slides are disappearing from some children's work when working on Google Slides. It is actually really easy to accidentally delete a slide in this application so please be aware of this. We are looking into how to avoid this but, in the meantime, each teacher has placed a master copy of the

daily presentation on your child's class stream. This will allow you to compare the two documents to see if this is the case. As always, if you are having further problems, please speak to us directly.

Reminder for those attending school

Children can come to school from 8.30am-8.45am and go home from 2.45-3pm (unless you have informed us that they will be staying until 4pm). Please remember to let us know the days and times they will be attending school as soon as you can. It also helps the kitchen if you specify whether they will be having a school meal or a packed lunch from home. On Fridays, all children should come to school in PE kit and footwear suitable for outdoor sport. Remember that the school has to be well ventilated so layers of warm clothing are essential.

Families North Yorkshire Magazine

Here [the link to the Jan/Feb issue](#) of Families North Yorkshire Magazine which you may find useful and enjoy reading through.

Curriculum Updates Maths

Calculation Videos

In the forthcoming weeks, we will be adding a series of calculation videos to the maths area on the school website. There will initially be 4 videos per year group. These will model and explain how addition, subtraction, multiplication and division are calculated in that year group. The teachers will explain the process as they go, using relevant mathematical vocabulary and any resources or manipulatives used. We have created these to engage parents and children with the maths curriculum at Acomb Primary School and to allow parents to support children with appropriate methods. Scan the QR code to view Reception's video about addition.



Concrete, Pictorial and Abstract Approach.

The 'Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract' (CPA) approach is an essential tool in teaching maths at both key stage one and key stage two at Acomb Primary School. It was developed by an American psychologist, Jerome Bruner, and is an essential technique of teaching maths for mastery.

Concrete:

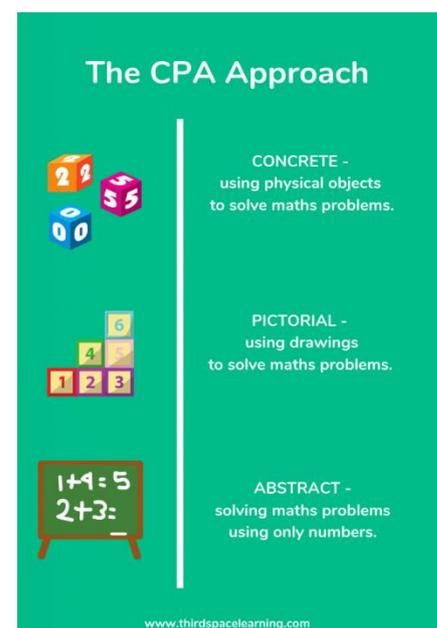
This is the 'doing' stage. Pupils use physical, concrete objects to model and answer problems. They are introduced to a new mathematical concept through the use of concrete resources (fruit, pencils, Dienes blocks, Numicon, counters etc) and experience, handle and manipulate.

Pictorial:

Pictorial is the 'seeing' stage where visual representations of concrete objects are used to model problems. This stage encourages children to make a mental connection between the physical object they have handled and the more abstract pictures, representations and diagrams. Building or drawing a model makes it easier to grasp difficult abstract concepts (such as fractions) and helps pupils visualise abstract problems to make them more accessible.

Abstract:

Abstract is the 'symbolic' stage where pupils use abstract symbols to model problems. Pupils will not progress to this stage until they have demonstrated that they have a solid





understanding of the concrete and pictorial stages of the problem. It involves the teacher introducing abstract concepts (such as mathematical symbols to indicate addition, subtraction, multiplication and division)

Building these steps across a lesson can help pupils better understand the relationship between numbers and the real world, and therefore helps secure their understanding of the mathematical concept they are learning.

Regular Updates

Telling School about Covid related symptoms

Just a reminder that it is still relevant for you to let school know if you or your child has any Covid related symptoms. Please do so by either emailing the office or ringing the school to inform us.