



Head of School's Introduction

As each lockdown week goes by, I am constantly reminded of what a great curriculum we offer our pupils here at Acomb. Just from glancing at both Tapestry and Google Classroom, as well as seeing the work taking place in classrooms currently, it is obvious that your children are engaged and keen to learn new things daily. Many thanks for the lovely feedback which we have received from yourselves to support this as well as your kind generosity in sending us treats to say thank you too.

Within the contents of today's newsletter, I have offered some more guidance for you to help you support your child further with their work. I've also hopefully ironed out some questions that I have had from some of you in terms of what to expect from school on a day to day basis. As always, if you have any more questions, let me know.

Take care and see you next week.

Mr White

Weekly News

Word of the Week – Independence

I've been really impressed with how 'independent' the children have been this week and it's been great to read what things they have done that they would normally ask for help in doing. Please keep encouraging this independence wherever possible as this is such a great character trait to have in life. See below for some of the great examples of independence we had throughout the week from the children.

I independently got on to google classroom 😊😊😊

I cleaned my gerbils out and gave them more food independently .

I independently made beans on toast for my lunch. (with supervision from my Mum)

I made scones at the weekend Mr White. Mummy only helped with the oven, and the eating! And she was my talking recipe.

Watch Monday's assembly to find out what next week's word is.

New: Home Learning – New Learning

I will mention this a lot over the next few paragraphs but this lockdown is very different to the previous one in many ways. One specific way is that the learning taking place has moved from a consolidation of things that your child already knows to work that involves new learning opportunities based upon the expectations of the National Curriculum and Early Years Framework. It is therefore really important that your child engages every day with these new objectives and, where possible, follows the same school routine as normal, engaging in the Google Meet (KS2) sessions as these offer great explanations of what to expect for the day ahead.

New: Home Learning – Work Feedback for Pupils in KS2

There seems to be some confusion with parents and carers about the expectations in terms of feedback to pupils whilst they are working from home and I just wanted to clarify what you should expect in terms of this.



For the majority of children in KS2, quality individual feedback will occur once a week for maths and literacy lessons. These will come up in the form of a verbal or written comment on your child's work within the associated program they have used. For all other work, a teacher may simply leave a whole class verbal or written comment having checked work for any misconceptions etc. This is not dissimilar to what happens in school now and corresponds with our marking policy. If a teacher feels the need to contact your child about their work more than the designated feedback of once a week, they will do this via email, phone call or a comment against the work handed in.

In school, the quality weekly feedback teachers give is checked and amended by children should there be a need to do so. If at home, we encourage you to ask your child to check the comments left by their teacher. As I'm sure you can relate to, teachers spend a lot of time marking and leaving comments and it can be really frustrating if this goes unnoticed particularly if a child has to follow up these comments with improvements and these are not done.

On most occasions, teachers will also offer the answers to work, particularly in maths. There is an obvious temptation to check these first before doing a task but please encourage your child not to do so. Perhaps you could sit down with them and go through their answers once they have completed a task? This will not only ensure that we know that a child has done their work independently but also allow you to see any areas that your child may need further support in.

New: School/Home Contact

With this lockdown being very different to the last in terms of demands on staff, we will be reducing the amount of direct school to home contact that you may have received in the previous lockdowns. Whereas previously we were contacting you fortnightly, we have now incorporated the Google check ins twice daily in KS2 and will be offering a similar check in with KS1 and Reception children once a week going forward. We hope that this will eliminate the need to contact the children so often as we will be seeing and interacting with them over these meetings.

We obviously recognise that, as parents and carers, you may want to contact your child's teacher from time to time to discuss any specific support that your child may need. We understand this completely so please feel free to contact the school office and we will endeavour to arrange this for you. We do intend to hold a version of an online parent's forum/evening at some point going forward which will give us the perfect opportunity to discuss with you your child's home learning and next steps going forward during lockdown. We will give you more information about this in the coming weeks.

New: Bug Club Reading

We have been fortunate to secure another free trial of the ActivLearn Bug Club online reading. We are delighted (and relieved!) that we have this fantastic resource once again. Although online books are not quite the same as the real thing, it enables us to allocate children the books that they need at their level and for them to progress systematically through the reading scheme.

Children are allocated books (or word cards if they are not yet onto books) at their level each week in EYFS and Key Stage 1. At Key Stage 2 they have been allocated a set of books to work through.

We found that during the last school closure this resource was invaluable and that it enabled children to continue on their reading journey. If children read their allocated books each week then they will be able to keep up with our reading curriculum and read the books that they would have read if we had been in school this term.

New: Indoor Shoes in School

Please remember that all children need a change of footwear, for indoors, every day. During the winter they will need something suitable for playing outdoors, both on the field and the playground.

New: BT Broadband

BT Broadband are offering free Wifi vouchers to those families that are in need of support with access to the internet. If you feel that you could be entitled to this, please contact school and we will endeavour to support you gaining this access.

New: Parent Governor Election

A reminder that voting for the Parent Governor election closes at 1pm on Tuesday 26th January. Each parent/carer has one vote regardless of the number of children you have attending the school.

Please follow the link below to cast your vote and remember that each voter should use a different device.

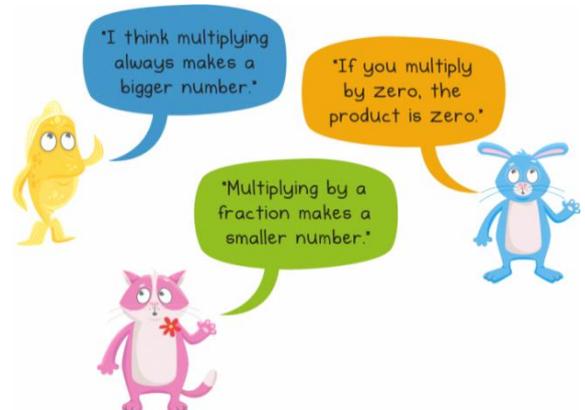
<https://forms.gle/Fr3i2fNabmokczGK9>

Curriculum Updates

Maths

Using 'Concept Cartoons' in maths.

Using 'concept cartoons' in maths allows rich discussion about mathematical concepts and questions. It can address common misconceptions and encourages pupils to reason and explain their thinking mathematically using appropriate vocabulary. Here is an example of a concept cartoon relating to multiplication.



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.