



## Newsletter – Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 Issue 5

Welcome to this week's **Newsletter, Issue 5**, on the first day of May! This newsletter brings you the usual reminders for contact along with some new information to keep you updated.

### What's new?

#### VE Day

We won't be setting formal work on Friday next week as we hope that you will be able to join us celebrating Victory in Europe Day. This year's celebration marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day near the end of World War 2 when fighting ceased with Germany in Europe.

As you may be aware, Friday is a Bank Holiday which was originally planned so that street parties and other celebrations. We will be making some suggestions of activities you and your children might like to get involved with, so that we can create as much of a community spirit as possible. These will include artwork, a picnic and some community singing! Watch out on class blogs from Monday for activities you might choose to take part in.

#### Pupil calls

It is growing increasingly important that teachers and their pupils continue to maintain communication, the longer the school closure goes on. The teachers are missing their interactions with pupils and we know from feedback this is the same for many children too. So, we have decided to increase our communication further (following a really positive trial with the Early Years team) so that your child will get a short phone call from their teacher once a week. This won't apply to any Year 6 child who has been working with Mrs Larkin online as this already happens, but will apply to those who haven't.

As part of that call, teachers will confirm the preferred contact number and have a short, friendly conversation with your child to see how they are getting on. We will also be asking how you would prefer to manage calls where there are more than 2 children in the family with different teachers. We are really happy to work with you to find the most preferable scenario.

F1 – Friday  
F2 – Tuesday  
Year 1 – Wednesday  
Year 2 – Friday  
Year 3 – Monday  
Year 4 – Wednesday  
Year 5 - Wednesday  
Year 6 – Wednesday

On the day of the call, please look out for the number 01623 557390. This will be the teacher! The number is routed through the Multi-Academy Trust switchboard and we ask that you **do not** return the call to this number as we will not be on the end of the line. If you are not available at the time of the call, Mrs Chambers will be ringing at a later date to catch up! Any further enquiries and questions can be sent via:

[teacher.enquiries@worksoppriory.snmat.org.uk](mailto:teacher.enquiries@worksoppriory.snmat.org.uk)

#### 'Virtual Take Five' is here!

Until we return to school, our pupils and their families have been offered the chance to join in with three different Take Five breathing practices each week, led by some of Each Amazing Breath's Trainers. These films will guide you and your family (if they would like to join in) through a breathing practice from start to finish, and there will be a variety of different types every week for you to choose from.



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On Thursday each week, a Flyer will be put on your class blog with film links for the 3 practices (**this week they are: Grounding Practice, Painting Breathing and Apple Breathing**). You simply have to click on the film link for the practice you want to join in with, and then input the password when prompted – **smile2020**. The films will remain active for 8 days and then be disabled on the Friday, with 3 new films issued the day before. If you have a favourite, you can use the link as many times as you want during the week - but why not try them all!

We have been offered access to these films to support us because we are a 'Take Five' Licenced school, which means we have agreed that these practices are only for use by our pupils and their families – they **MUST** not be shared, forwarded etc. as we would then be in breach of copyright. We ask that you respect this. Hope you enjoy joining in 😊

### 'Re-opening'

There is much in the news about the potential for easing lockdown measures and in particular, schools 're-opening' to more pupils. At this moment in time, there is little information to share, but it is important that we stress that when the time does come, we will be working hard to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils, parents and staff will be at the forefront of our planning. It is also important to stress that it is likely that school will be very different when this does happen.

### FSM Vouchers

The issues of the previous two weeks have been largely resolved now and we are planning to stay with our original providers until we can be assured that the government Free School Meal Voucher system is reliable. This may never happen! Thank you for being so patient as we have tried to resolve the issues.

### Reminders.....

#### Learning Hub

Our Key Worker and Vulnerable children are continuing to enjoy their provision at our Hub School at Sparken Hill. Sparken Hill Academy will be open all week, including the Bank Holiday Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May for eligible children.

If your circumstances have changed, and you would like us to consider providing care for your child(ren) at the Hub, please get in touch with the school office immediately and we will try and work with you to put plans in place.

#### School admissions

If you have yet to accept/decline your child's place for Reception Class in September, please do so immediately so we can determine if any families on the waiting list can be offered a place instead. Thank you.

#### Talent Show

Look out for the Talent Show which features on our YouTube channel at 7pm tomorrow! Thanks to everyone who has contributed to what should be an entertaining 45 minutes!

#### Communication with school

The office team continue to work remotely during the time the school building is closed. To enable us to direct your email to the right people most efficiently, we have a number of dedicated email addresses to do this:



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1. **General enquiries:** queries you think the office can help with, including emails relating to Free School Meals, should be sent to: [office@worksoppriory.snmat.org.uk](mailto:office@worksoppriory.snmat.org.uk)
2. **Enquiries related to children's work:** queries for your child's teacher, or anything you wish to send into school for your child's teacher to see, should be sent to: [teacher.enquiries@worksoppriory.snmat.org.uk](mailto:teacher.enquiries@worksoppriory.snmat.org.uk)
3. **IT related enquiries:** for example difficulty logging onto the Blog or Sumdog, etc, or password checks, should be sent to: [it.enquiries@worksoppriory.snmat.org.uk](mailto:it.enquiries@worksoppriory.snmat.org.uk) (Please note that we are unable to mend laptops and other devices)

### **Lastly.....**

Thanks to the school team who were involved in the preparation and distribution of purple books last week. Our 'posties' reported back they were greeted very warmly by many families who were outside in their gardens (it was a beautiful sunny day) and it was a pleasure to be able to catch up with a number of you and chat, from a socially acceptable distance of course!

**Stay safe, keep well, and enjoy the weekend!**