

RODE AND NORTON ST PHILIP SCHOOL FEDERATION: NEWSLETTER 21

12th February 2021

rodeandnortonschoolfederation.co.uk

Rode Early Bird and Stay and Play Team

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OFSTED Registration: EY489041

Dear Parents and Carers,

Message from Mrs Muxworthy

Congratulations! We have all made it to the end of this half-term and despite the unusual circumstances, lots of excellent learning has been taking place.

Many thanks to so many of the parents that completed our Remote Learning Survey. I hope it didn't take you too long. It has certainly been very informative to read and has enabled me to 'touch base' with how our families are coping with lockdown learning. It was very heartening to read all the positive and supportive comments and I know that the staff team are really pleased to hear how appreciative you all are of their hard work. Many of you have realised that staff are working longer hours than normal and are having to reinvent all their usual activities whilst grappling with technology. Equally, the staff are very impressed with the way in which children are engaging with home learning and are so well-supported by parents.

You told us: You feel well supported: *'Good communication', 'You are listening, responding and being proactive'*.

Microsoft Sway is working well: *'Easy to access and the older children can use it independently', 'Sway has been a lifechanger!'*

Reception parents like the flexibility of a weekly plan: *'I find the timetable helpful to give structure', 'The most important thing for us is flexibility'*

We are providing appropriate and interesting work: *"Workload is consistent and achievable" "Absolutely loving Ms. Manifold's singing lessons" "I like the variety"*

80% of parents said they were happy emailing work/photos in on a weekly basis and did not want to upload work to a platform. *"Feedback Friday is an easy way to share work"* Six parents (mostly in Year 4) said they would like to be uploading work to a platform.

Majority of parents like the live Zoom chat and lessons, mainly for the social contact this provides for the children. 70% of parents said they would like more live Zoom sessions.

Children and parents value video content from familiar staff including teaching, assemblies, French, yoga and singing: *'Uploading videos provides a tangible link to school and teacher'*.

68% of parents would like more video content from school staff.

Parents found teacher phone calls and Oak Academy videos the least effective input so we will use less of these.

We listened: For the remaining home-schooling weeks each class will provide a minimum of two live Zoom sessions (which is above the government expectations outlined below). This will be learning-based rather than social and we would ask parents to organise social contact sessions between themselves using What's App and Zoom if they feel more contact with friends is needed.

Any teachers who are not currently creating their own video content will endeavour to do so as we know that if children see their teacher's face during the week engagement is raised.

We will try to include more video content from familiar staff across all year groups including French and yoga.

We will continue to use Feedback Friday as our main source of gathering feedback.

Teachers will continue to develop the content that they add on Sway as you have told us that you find this medium useful.

Printed work packs will be available (and always have been) for anyone without access to a printer. Please just ask your class teacher.

We will endeavour to set up BFG Class with the facility to upload work via Teams.

I hope you agree that our remote learning provision is above and beyond that specified by the DfE (see below) and I would again like to thank you all for your valuable feedback and hugely supportive comments and thank the staff for continuing to strive to provide the best possible offer within the constraints of our rural broadband.

“Schools and colleges do not have to offer live lessons. Remote teaching will include both recorded or live direct teaching time, and time for pupils and students to complete tasks and assignments independently. Online video lessons do not necessarily need to be recorded by teaching staff at the school or college. [Oak National Academy](#) lessons, for example, can be provided in lieu of school or college led video content. Schools and colleges are best placed to decide on the most appropriate approach to teaching their pupils effectively.” **DfE Guidance, 2021**

Keep up the good work!

In **Gruffalo Class** everyone has been working hard to perfect their Indian dance. At home, Zachary has produced some incredibly neat writing, Jack created a beautiful model of an eagle, Sammy did incredible work in Maths, weighing a range of animals, Izzy helped to cook a Chinese banquet and Maddie has been writing numerous cards to send out to people.

In **Elmer Class** Mostyn designed and made a fantastic trophy to celebrate the achievements of the Wright Brothers. George has been a phonic detective this week and has found and sorted lots of split digraph words.

In **BFG Class** Charlie was our first Bingo line winner and won himself a delicious plate of olives! He's also written a fantastic newspaper article about Pandora's Box. Max is a TT Rockstar King! His current speed to answer a question is 0.9 seconds!!! Gryff has been creating some incredible machines this week including a working morse-code machine, out of a battery and speaker cable.

Frazer has been making electrical circuits, investigating ice and giving Gordon Ramsey some competition in the kitchen by creating some wonderful desserts.

In **Paddington Class** Mrs Duncan was well and truly entertained during her Tuesday Zoom show and tells. Some children wore animal fancy dress, and all amazed her with their remarkable animal impressions. At home Frank wrote some fabulous instructions explaining 'How to make a Cloud Blower', using a great choice of verbs and BB produced some beautiful drawings illustrating Amelia Earhart's last adventure as well as working really hard on her spellings, multiplication and division in Maths.

This week the children in **Wild Thing's Class** have become Greek Travel agents writing amazing facts and leaflets ready for when we can all holiday again. We are dreaming of blue seas and sunny skies. It was lovely to see children competitively playing Miss Anderson's exciting Zoom bingo and Mrs Vowell's token Perseus costume was beaten by a beautiful goddess! Home learners have amazed us with Greek dances, tricky extended maths, and some intergalactic problem solving. You have all been fantastic!

Staff News

After half-term Katie Twitchen will be taking up her post as School Business Manager and we welcome her to the team. Sam Nicol will be leaving the role on March 5th but we will continue to benefit from her many skills and talents as she will be continuing in her role as Clerk to the Governors. If you would like to contribute to Sam's leaving gift please visit your ParentPay account.

FRANS News

Friends of Rode and Norton Schools, our hard-working PTFA, have been quietly working in the background during the last year, continuing to raise money for our schools. We always welcome new members and now is the time to get involved. The **AGM** will take place via Zoom on Tuesday **23rd February at 8.15pm**, via Zoom. You may choose to join the committee or just be part of the wider team. Every parent at school is automatically a member. The team have a lot of fun, usually meet in a pub and are always looking for new ideas. If you would like to attend the meeting please email me on GMuxworthy@educ.somerset.gov.uk and I will forward you the Zoom invite. After two years on the team I will be stepping down as Co-Chair at the AGM.

Covid Reporting During Half-Term

If any child receives a positive Covid test during the half-term holiday please contact myself or Kim Slade via email. (see below). We are all keen for school to re-open fully as soon as possible so please exercise caution and follow the rules when out and about over half-term. Thank you.

Live Zoom Assembly Feb 24th 11.30am

Our Methodist Minister Rev. Graham Slingo will be crossing his fingers that the technology works and hoping to deliver a live assembly on this date after half-term. Graham has not been able to come into school during the pandemic so it will be lovely for the children to see him. Teachers will drop the Zoom link into their Sway plans after half-term.

Thank you for your patience and perseverance with home learning. You have been doing wonderful work. The children have shown great resilience. I wish you all a relaxing week, free from Zoom calls and worksheets and am really counting the days until we are all back together in school.

Happy half-term!

George Muxworthy
Head Teacher RNSF

School Lunch Provision

Children who are **attending school** as part of the critical worker/vulnerable programme are entitled to receive a packed lunch if they are in **Reception, Year 1 or Year 2** as part of the **Universal Infant Free School Meals** offer. Your child may well prefer to continue bringing in their own lunch. Please contact Tina Tarbrooke in the Rode office **by 3pm on Tuesday 23rd February** if your child requires this provision in school for w/b 1st March.

BIF Club for all Parents and Carers in the Federation working at Home and doing Home

Schooling - Every Thursday 12noon

Rev. Caroline Walker will be holding another BIF (Bible is Fun) club this Thursday 25th February at 12 noon. The details to join are here:

Topic: BIF Club - Bible is Fun - Thursdays!

Feb 25, 2021 12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82047737915?pwd=am4wN1VzSUhSNFlrbHkvNGVJNDhBQT09>

Meeting ID: 820 4773 7915

Passcode: 705639

Coronavirus in Children – Symptoms and Testing

The three main symptoms of coronavirus in children have been clarified by NHS. They are:

- a high temperature
- a 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)
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

What to do if your child has symptoms

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible.
2. You, your child and anyone else you live with should stay at home and not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have the test.
3. Anyone in your support bubble should also stay at home if your child has been in close contact with them since their symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started. More information about symptoms and testing is available [here](#):

If you have any questions about your child having Coronavirus symptoms please contact one of the following members of our senior staff, not your class teachers:

George Muxworthy: gmuxworthy@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Kim Slade: kslade@educ.somerset.gov.uk