

Headteacher's weekly newsletter (N°26)

12th February 2021

- Feedback from the year group leaders:
 - All cohort leaders have asked me to thank you for your efforts and support this half term. It's now time to give all the children a break from their screens and enjoy half term while following the Government's guidance.
 - **A reminder to please download the Google Classrooms App.** It makes uploading videos and photos really easy. For example, you can take a photo of a piece of written work and then quickly upload it to Google Classrooms via the App.
- I informed you last week that there was a Government scheme to provide holiday activities for children eligible for FSMs. There are a few places left that can now be filled by children whose parents and carers are key workers. You can book a place using the following link: <https://cmsports.schoolipal.co.uk/clubs/holiday-courses-for-key-workers>
These places are not free and the costs and further information are contained in the flyer attached to the newsletter. If you need help booking online, please call 02392 987 881 or email at info@cm-sports.co.uk.
- A reminder that parents and carers of children that are entitled to receive free school meals have been sent a voucher, valued at £15, via email from a food voucher provider called 'Huggg.me', to cover the February half term period. A voucher per child has been issued. You will have a month to redeem them at a supermarket of your choice. Free school meal vouchers will continue to be sent via email every week during term time until the school re-opens fully.
- The parent/teacher telephone appointments for after half term (week beginning 22nd February 2021) has been set up in Arbor. You will be able to book an appointment from Monday 15th February 2021 to Friday 19th February 2021 by logging onto the parent portal. Please note that you do not need to book an appointment if you have had regular contact with the class teacher using Google Meets.
- Please watch, enjoy and talk about the next short video from Mrs Waters (Power of Words) Things to remember this week:
 - Hours spent on online gaming could lead to learning hundreds of new words.
 - If your children like gaming, they need as many words as possible to understand the instructions and conversations people have about the games.
 - Looking at the words used in different games is a great way of learning new words with very little effort.
 - Children and Adult's Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEHX65h-kUg&t=5s>
 - A reminder that all video games have an age rating. I ask parents to check. Fortnite remains popular with children... they talk about their gaming. **Fortnite has a PEGI rating of 12, PEGI have said this is due to the: 'frequent scenes of mild violence. It is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age'.**
- Mrs Waters would like every child to complete the questionnaire which was set on Google Classrooms today.
- While it is important to have a break from the screens over half-term, staff would really appreciate your support encouraging your child(ren) to read every day. Thank you.

-
- We hope that all our children and families have a very enjoyable half term break remembering that we are still in lockdown and we all need to keep each other safe. The school re-opens on Monday 22nd February 2021 for vulnerable children and children of key workers. The Secretary of State for Education said that schools would be given two weeks' notice regarding re-opening. If we are to open on Monday 8th March 2021, then an announcement should be made on Monday 22nd February 2021.

Best wishes

Denis Foster (Headteacher)