



# Ditchheat Primary School

## Weekly Newsletter:

This newsletter can also be read on our school website:

<http://ditchheatprimary.co.uk/>

### Key Dates

#### **April**

- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> - 10am Cherry class webex – pirate themed!
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> - 2pm Maple class webex
- 10am Willow class webex – science/history
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> - 3pm Holly class webex
- 10am Willow class webex class catch up

### Headteacher Update

27<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents

What lovely weather we had last week. For me, it certainly made things feel a bit brighter.

#### **Family Fun Competition**

Just for fun, we will be doing a weekly competition. This week.....can you make a family portrait and upload it onto Tapestry? The best one will appear in next weeks newsletter.

It could be a photo, a collage, a painting, a sculpture....anything at all!

Upload your entry by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May and good luck!

#### **Tapestry**

Thank you to everyone who has now logged into Tapestry and is using it regularly. It is going to be our main method of communication though I have asked staff to only look at it during the working day so that it does not encroach on their evenings and weekends.

We will be choosing a Tapestry Star of the week! – for the favourite bit of learning in each class to share on our newsletter and facebook.

When you use Tapestry in an app on your phone, it will not show you the memos (which is the main port of communication) however, the company are planning on this feature in the future. Instead, to see memos, you need to access your account through a laptop or tablet. The app is currently just for uploading observations.

When uploading observations, we would like you to upload a few at a time please and don't feel that you have to upload everything. We love seeing the children's learning but know that it can be very time consuming for you. 1 update a week is fine or more if you think your child would benefit from some feedback from their class teacher or teaching assistant.

## Questionnaire

Thank you to those that completed the questionnaire. There were a range of responses about home learning and how you are coping. I stress again that we are more interested in your child's happiness rather than how much they can learn during this time.

Some of you who have more than one child are struggling to manage 2 topics. Please feel free to follow the learning for just one of your children.

Some expressed that their child is becoming increasingly anxious about the situation we are in. We suggest that you limit the amount of news the children access. When we return to school, our main focus will be on your child's social, emotional and mental health. Please also see the link in the information below giving help with anxiety and stress.

## Webex meetings

There will be a member of staff on the Webex session 5 minutes before the start so that we can sort out any technical issues and try and start promptly.

## Reception and Year 1 children

Letters and sounds (the phonic programme that we follow in school) lessons are now available online. Please follow the following link:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP\\_FbjYUP\\_UtldV2K\\_-niWw/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP_FbjYUP_UtldV2K_-niWw/featured)

## Year 6 children

Please look out for information about emails and phone calls from your secondary schools on Tapestry.

Thank you again for everything you are doing, we are all missing your children and are here for you if you need anything.



Victoria Withers

## Help with anxiety

Please see the link below:

<http://www.carersupportmatters.co.uk/>

This website pinpoints a number of links to free e-learning, modules, books and videos for families to help cope with stress and anxiety linked to the COVID-19 situation.

These are unsettling times for all of us but if you are worried about how your child or you are coping, please see the NSPCC website for support and advice.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>



#### **Financial help**

FoDS have very kindly released a pot of money that can be accessed by families in need. If you feel that you could benefit from this, please email me through the school email: [ditchheat@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:ditchheat@educ.somerset.gov.uk) and I will contact you directly about how we may be able to help to you.