

Featherstone Primary School



Weekly Home/School Newsletter

29th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The snow from the start of the week seems like a distant memory from long ago! What a difference a few days make. I hope you all managed to have some fun in the snow. Here is your weekly home/school newsletter with the important updates that you need to know for this week.

National Lockdown

You have probably heard by now that earlier this week, Boris Johnson extended the national lockdown to Monday 8th March 2021. This will mean that after half term, school will be open to children of critical workers and vulnerable children only, and not the wider school. The government have said that they will give schools ample notice on what the wider re-opening plans are. When we have more information, we will of course let you know. Whilst we are closed to most children, teachers will continue to send remote learning home each day for the children to complete.

February half-term

In line with Boris Johnson's announcement earlier this week, Featherstone will close as usual over February half-term and we will not be open to any children during that week. This will give staff the opportunity to recharge after an incredibly busy and non-stop half term and spend some time with their family in their households. School will re-open on Monday 22nd February to children of critical workers and vulnerable children only.

The government are not providing the Edenred food vouchers during February half term. However, there is wider government support in place to support families and children outside of term-time through the [Covid Winter Grant Scheme](#). The £170 million scheme is being run by local authorities in England, with a lot of the funding to support with food and essential utility costs. Please follow the link to

Food parcels for working families only of EYFS/Y1/Y2

It was good to see some of our working families take advantage of our food parcel offer this week. This offer was for families of children in EYFS or KS1, who all get universal free school meals (different to the voucher scheme). Our catering service kindly agreed to help out here, which was great. We will continue to offer this whilst school is closed to most children.

If you would like to order a food parcel, then you must meet three requirements:

1. You **must not** be receiving the government's Edenred food vouchers.
2. Your child **must** be in Reception (EYFS), Year One or Year Two (Key Stage One).
3. Your child must **not** currently be coming to school.

[Please follow this link](#) and complete the form if you would like to order a food parcel for next week. The form will close early on Monday so please do get your order in before then. If you order a food parcel for next week, you will need to collect this parcel from school on Friday 5th February 2021.

COVID-19 Staff testing

A reminder that, starting this week, in-line with the Government guidelines, school staff are going to be taking COVID-19 tests twice per week. The purpose of the testing is to identify those staff who may be positive but are not showing any symptoms and therefore, taking these tests will stop the spread of COVID-19 even quicker. If school staff test positive for COVID-19, then this may have implications for bubble closures in school. As a school, we will always endeavor to keep you updated at the earliest opportunities.

Google Chromebook laptops update

I am pleased to tell you that the Google Chromebooks for children in Key Stage Two are very nearly ready for collection. This week, we had computer technicians on-site for three days installing all of the software, including the safeguarding software.

We will be arranging for you to collect your laptops **from Wednesday 3rd February 2021**. We will get in contact with you regarding a precise date and time in due course. Please try to keep to the date and time we give you. Note that we will only give the laptops to parents, and **not** friends or other family members.

All parents are required to sign an agreement that states that this is a loaned item and if damaged, then the parent will need to pay for this. More information to follow.

Home/Remote learning and Live Sessions

Parents are telling us that the children are really enjoying the pre-recorded home learning lessons that teachers are sending. This is great to know.

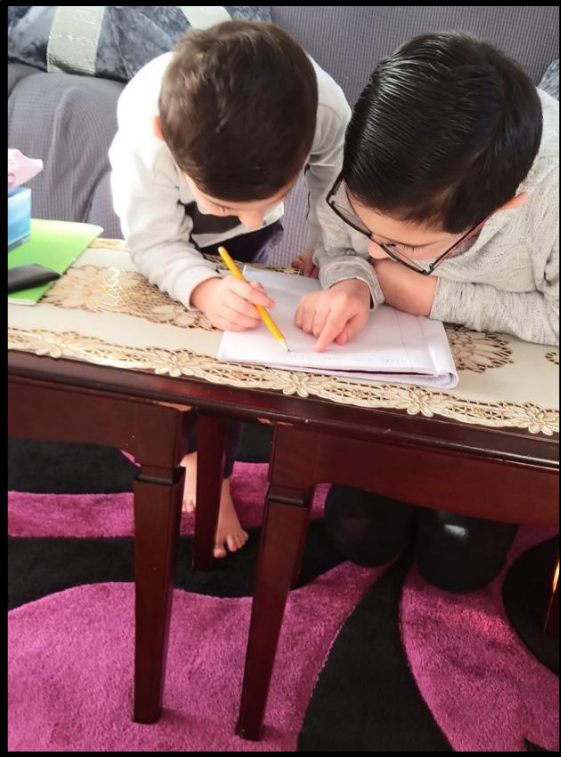
The children will continue to receive pre-recorded English and Maths lessons from their class teachers as well as a pre-recorded Spanish lesson from Mr. Douglas. Of course, there are the weekly live sessions too every Monday. The times are as follows:

Year 6	9.15-9.45
Year 5	10.00-10.30
Year 4	10.45-11.15
Year 3	11.30-12.00
Year 2B	1.00-1.30
Year 1	1.45-2.15
Reception	2.30-3.00

2L will be on Wednesday 3rd February at 9.30am. Class teachers will send you the MS Teams links for these live sessions like they did last time. Parents, it looks like we will be continuing with the home learning for a few weeks longer than expected. Please continue to send your children's home learning back as often as you can but we do understand if this cannot be every day. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend. Stay safe.
From Mr. E. Gaibee (Headteacher)

Here are some home learning photos:



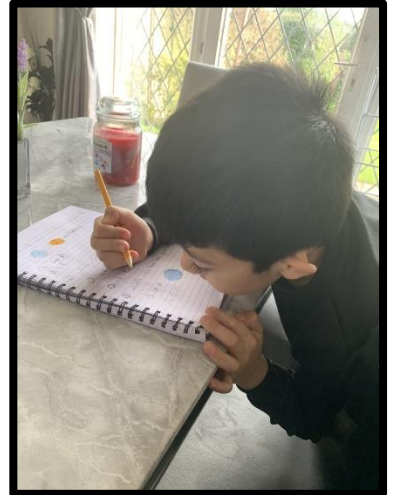
Mahir is teaching his brother, Alan.



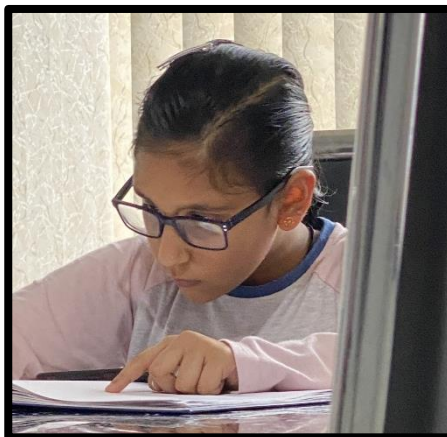
Aria showing off one of her scenes from her puppet theatre as part of her retelling of The Lonely Beast for English. Amazing home learning, well done!



Adam is working really hard at home as well.



Hiqmah filling her book full of super learning!



Khadijah concentrating very hard.

