



## Newsletter

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Home Learning Expectations

Everyone has been working very hard over the last few weeks, getting to grips with the new way of working and we understand how challenging this is. Teachers currently provide work daily for their class and try to mirror what the children would be offered in school with the work that they are providing. This does not all have to be completed on the day that it is set or at a set time but the majority of work should be attempted across the week, wherever possible, in whatever way suits you and your child best. Each week, we monitor the children's engagement with their learning to make sure that, whilst they are unable to attend school, they are able to access the work and are able to continue their learning successfully at home. So far, the majority of pupils are engaging with some of their learning each week, which is fantastic and a large number of children are engaging with a good level of learning across the school – this would be at least two pieces of work submitted each day or the majority of work submitted across the week. Congratulations to Year 1, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 who had at least 70% of the class engaged with a good level of learning last week.

When we carry out our weekly monitoring of pupils' engagement with their learning, we identify any pupils who appear not to be engaging with any work at all. If there are any pupils who are not engaging with their learning at all during a week, the class teacher will make contact with parents/carers to discuss this and to offer support to enable them to do this. If, after further monitoring, this does not improve, you will receive a phone call from a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss what is preventing your child from completing their work and we will aim to find a solution to this together. We do appreciate how difficult it is to support home learning, especially if you have more than one child or/and are working from home. However, it is vital that the children complete some of their work each week so that they do not miss valuable learning opportunities and fall behind in their learning. That is why it is important for us to make contact with any parents/carers of pupils who appear to be missing out on their learning, to provide whatever support and advice we can to help them to engage with their learning and keep up with the rest of their class.

We understand that, for some pupils, difficulties related to a lack of technology have limited the amount of learning that they have been able to do and we have identified children most in need of support in this area to receive an iPad for use at home. The iPads that we requested from the DfE have now arrived at school this week but will need setting up to ensure that they are safe to use at home. As this cannot be completed immediately by our IT support company, we will be sending home some of our school iPads, which are already safe to use, early next week. Unfortunately, we only have a limited supply of devices provided so are only able to loan these to families who have been identified as needing this support most. We will be in touch with identified families on Monday to arrange collection of the iPads.

### Live Microsoft Teams Sessions

It has been fantastic to see the children participating in live Microsoft Teams sessions this week and I am very impressed with everyone's patience and support in making this possible. You should have received a letter this week about our use of Microsoft Teams. This explained what the situation was with live sessions moving forward and also reminded everyone how important it is to ensure that the Parental Home Learning Agreement is adhered to, in order to ensure that things run smoothly and



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everyone remains safe. As soon as we are able to deliver live 'teaching' sessions, we will let you know and begin delivering these. In the meantime, I know that the children have enjoyed the live sessions that have been delivered to support their wellbeing so we will continue with these until we can move over to recorded teaching sessions. Hopefully, following our meeting on Monday, we may be able to resolve the difficulties that we have been having with offering this.

### Two Village Art Competition

I am sure that you will have seen the information on Class Dojo about our exciting Art Competition which has been launched to celebrate Children's Mental Health Week next week. I know that Miss Brunning is very excited to see all of the children's fantastic entries and I am sure lots of children have already been inspired by her wonderful video and the great ideas that she has posted on Class Dojo. The children can be completely creative with this competition, possibly being inspired by a piece of music, making models, even painting their own faces and are free to use any media of their choice. The main purpose of the competition is to give the children an opportunity to express their feelings and creativity through art, during this difficult time, to promote positivity and have a bit of fun.



Photographs of the children's entries should be sent to the school office, by email, by 4.00 pm on 7<sup>th</sup> February. The entries will be judged by Miss Brunning and the winners will receive some amazing arty prizes. We have also now heard that the competition is going to feature in the local newspaper! Good luck to everyone – we can't wait to see all of your creative entries.

### E Safety

Next week is our E Safety Week at Two Village, which leads us up to Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February. During the week, class teachers will be delivering sessions on E Safety for the children and Miss Thompson will be delivering a virtual E Safety Information session for parents/carers on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 10.30 am. Details of this have been posted on Class Dojo. If you would like to receive a link to take part in this training, please let Miss Thompson or the school office know. At the time of writing this newsletter, only two parents have requested a space on this session so far. It would be great to see more parents/carers involved in something that is so relevant at the moment, when our children are spending more time at home and therefore often more time online.

This week, I attended an E Safety webinar, led by the 2 Johns. This was extremely informative and highlighted to me the many potential dangers of internet use for our children. It also highlighted how out of date our knowledge of E Safety can become in a short space of time and how relevant it is for us to know what the dangers are and how to safeguard our children during the current climate. Miss Thompson will also be receiving this training next week and then we will be able to deliver some additional E Safety sessions to children in Key Stage 2, based on a resource package that has been prepared for us by the 2 Johns. As I have said many times before, I highly recommend 'The 2 Johns' Facebook page (EST E Safety Training) which is regularly updated with useful information about E Safety. Questions and concerns can also be posted here. You may also visit <http://esafetytraining.org> Other useful websites for finding out more about E Safety are listed below:

Thinkuknow - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

UK Safer Internet - <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk>

NSPCC - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>



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Childnet - <https://www.childnet.com>

CEOP for reporting concerns - <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre>

## Safeguarding

Whilst the majority of our pupils are at home, we are unable to see them often and may not be aware of any concerns that they may have or any difficulties that they are experiencing. I therefore thought that it may be useful to remind everyone who to contact if they have any safeguarding concerns about any of our children. If you need to speak to someone about a safeguarding concern, please either phone the school office or email and ask to speak to one of our safeguarding leads. In the first instance, you should try to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, which is me, but if I am unavailable you can speak to one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, named below. Although Miss Thompson has always been one of our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads in the past, as she is due to start maternity leave after Easter, Mrs Styant has attended the appropriate training to carry out this role in her absence.

**Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Mrs Natasha Bennett

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Miss Katherine Herbert

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Mrs Tacita Styant

Please also note that we have a new Child Protection Policy in light of the school not being fully open. This document can be found on our website.

<https://twovillage.essex.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Child-Protection-During-School-Closures-Policy-January-2021.pdf>

## Safeguarding Children Resource

Amid the Covid 19 pandemic, supporting the wellbeing of children has never been so important. SSS Learning have produced a free Safeguarding Children 10 Top Tips Parent Resource to offer advice on how parents can safeguard their child/ren's mental health and promote their wellbeing. This is available as a document and short video presentation. The link to both resources is here: <https://ssscpd.co.uk/education/parentsandguardians/child-mental-health-10-tips-for-parents/-/pj==>

## New Local Governing Board

Having joined the Vine Schools Trust in September, our Board of Governors was replaced with a Temporary Interim Board from the Trust to aid our transition into the Trust. This month the Temporary Interim Board was replaced with a Local Governing Board. We therefore have a new group of governors and a new Chair of Governors, Carole Adams.

## China Week

As we are approaching Chinese New Year, we thought that it would be a nice idea for the children to develop their understanding of Chinese culture and traditions by having a 'China Week' during the week before half term. During this week, teachers may choose a specific day to focus on learning about China or may provide some activities that can be carried out throughout the week. In preparation for this week, I will also post some ideas for additional

activities on Class Dojo that you might want to try at home to enhance your children's learning and provide a bit of fun, whilst deepening the children's understanding of another country and its culture. It will also support the children's understanding of respect, which is this half term's focus value, as we explore the importance of respecting other cultures. It would be lovely to receive any photographs of





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any activities that you do at home so that these can be shared with everyone to celebrate Chinese New Year.

### Multi-Schools Council

We are very proud to be part of the Multi-Schools Council and enjoy taking part in and supporting their events, in order to try to break down negative perceptions about children with disabilities or special educational needs. As shared on Class Dojo recently, the Multi-Schools Council are currently offering some well being and awareness sessions as part of a home school offer. You may find it useful to follow them on Facebook to see what is coming up over the next few weeks or for some interesting information. You can find them on Facebook by searching for the *Multi-Schools Council* or you may like to visit the Multi-Schools Council website - <https://www.multischoolscouncil.org.uk/>

### Worship

We hope that you have managed to access worship over the last two weeks and have enjoyed this. As always, we are very keen to receive the children’s responses to what they have seen and heard and would welcome these being sent to us via Dojo or through Seesaw. We would also love to receive prayers related to our focus value this half term and to hear about anything that the children have done at home to demonstrate respect. Thank you to Elias, in Acorn Class, who sent me a lovely prayer via Tapestry.

### Reading Challenge

We have made a good start to our Reading Challenge this term. Although some of our percentages are not as high as they usually are when school is fully open, I am very optimistic that these will improve. Some classes have already made an improvement in the last week – well done Early Years, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6!

Reading is an incredibly important activity for our children to do regularly. As well as enabling children to develop a love of books and reading, research shows that regular reading develops many skills which all have a positive impact on a child’s academic achievement in the future, right across the curriculum, as well as specifically in English. Reading improves children’s literacy skills, exposes children to a much wider vocabulary, improves concentration, improves levels of creativity and imagination and deepens their understanding of the world. These are just some of the benefits of reading which will have a significant impact on a child’s overall learning and academic success. I would therefore encourage all of our parents/carers to pick up a book as often as they can and read to or/and with their child, during this time away from school. Even if you are unable to complete all of the work set for you each week by class teachers, reading will be a great way to support your learning at home.

To take part in the Reading Challenge, please continue to send pictures of your child’s reading diary to the teachers, showing that they have read at least 5 times each week, so that they can record their class results. Please see the results below for this half term so far.

Week	Early Years	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
11/1/21	29%	64%	64%	63%	56%	71%	44%
18/1/21	43%	68%	75%	60%	56%	62%	56%

### Welfare Calls

We emailed everyone last week to explain that we will now be extending our use of welfare phone calls. Previously, we had been making phone calls to identified families weekly and keeping in touch with others via Class Dojo. However, we have now moved to weekly phone calls for everyone who has



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a child not currently attending school. Hopefully, following last week’s email, you are aware of the day on which you will be phoned, which means you will know when to expect a call. I completely understand that sometimes it may be difficult to answer a call, whilst working from home or/and home schooling. However, it would be really helpful if you could answer the weekly call to enable us to be sure that you are safe and everything is ok. These calls will also provide you with the opportunity to let us know if you are having any difficulties that we may be able to help with or for you to ask/pass on any questions that you may have. If a member of staff is unable to reach you on their first attempt, they will phone again and messages will be sent. If you have missed calls and have received messages, please can you ensure that you respond to these as soon as you are able to. If we have not had contact with a family for some time, despite calls, emails and messages being sent, we will need to make a home visit to be sure that everything is ok.

### Survey

You will have seen a message about completing a survey posted on Class Dojo this week. The Vine Schools Trust are planning on developing a page on our new website which will help to promote our school and will include parental feedback, which they will collate for us. They have developed a Microsoft form questionnaire to enable parents/carers to complete the survey remotely and have asked us to share this with you. I have already shared this via Class Dojo but have also shared it below for anyone who may have missed the post about this. The deadline for completing the survey is 12<sup>th</sup> February. As this survey is very similar to the one that we normally complete this term, I will not ask you to complete both and will therefore not send out the usual survey as planned this term.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=A3gsKI9LvU-jhBaC30fjraqJFk7qeEVPsGMQA3qCeGtUQ09WTjhUNlc4SDVIQINOVfk1MTZSTk9XWi4u>

Thank you again for your continued support and patience. Please know that you are all doing a great job in dealing with the challenges of the pandemic and remember that, although we may not see you every day, we are here for you if you need us.

Mrs Natasha Bennett  
Headteacher

### Diary Dates 2020-21

Date	Event
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021 – 10.30 am	E Safety Information Session for Parents
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 – 4.00 pm	Closing date for Art Competition
W/C Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Half Term
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021	Children Return to School