



ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH of ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL

Year 4 Summer 1 Newsletter (and Home Learning Pack Instructions)

20th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I sincerely hope that you and your families are doing well during these challenging times. The weather seems to have improved significantly to help things along!

I usually start these letters by reflecting on how well last term went and I still want to talk about the successes! Pre-closure, we began the term with the children's Lent worship which included some lovely singing and even acting! Just before we closed, the children took part in an incredible workshop about dealing with uncertainty and fear, called Melva, at the Gosforth Civic Theatre – their behaviour was stunning and they made us so proud! Academically speaking, my biggest regret about the closure is the children not finishing their Ancient Greek topic – what the class produced about Greek philosophy and democracy was amazing, with a depth of understanding that went beyond their young years! Lastly, what a delight it has been to see some of their wonderful work, letters and general messages – please do keep them coming to my email!

In terms of this term, I have produced the following:

- A topic web as normal which covers what we *would* have done and hopefully points you in the direction of what you may do if you are interested. Some of the material in the Topic Web (e.g. Science and RE) will be sent out as future resources.
- A home learning pack to last the next few weeks. We are, of course, awaiting further Department for Education instructions about how long these closures will last so it is difficult to predict what may happen in the next few weeks! **The specifics on the home learning pack are detailed below.**
- A message to the children which has a series of fun suggestions for finding out about Shakespeare in time for his anniversary (also St George's Day, 23rd April!)
- Another class project, this time linked to our new geography topic – this is to last two weeks alongside the Shakespeare project.
- On our [school's class page](#), you'll find everything I've sent out plus additional resources for some subjects. I am trying to keep it updated with lots more without inundating you!

As ever, **everything we send is optional**. It is simply to keep things ticking over if you wish. Some families have already emailed me for specific advice, and of course I will be happy to signpost to something you feel your child particularly would need. Please feel free to email or await my phone call – I am going to try and phone as many as I can this week! **If you get a phone call from a private number from around 11am-4pm during the week, it might just be me!!** I will be phoning every day except Thursday this week!

My email address in case you don't have it to hand is jonathan.booth@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk and admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk is still manned also if you have something general or if you can't get through to me!

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Booth

Home Learning Pack Content and Instructions:

If you require paper copies, please send an email to admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk and one can either be sent out to you or collected in school.

Name	Subject	Further Information
Daily Reading and TTRS	English and Maths	As usual, Times Table Rockstars and daily reading are really the main things that I recommend regularly. It keeps the basics of Maths going and reading remains the most important thing that children can do without doubt!
White Rose Maths - Money	Maths	This is the unit I <i>said</i> I'd included in the last pack but ended up doing shape instead! My fault! I've attached that unit in full.
White Rose Maths - Time	Maths	Some of you completed Money already, so I've included a short additional unit of Time which is another unit I think is well-suited to home learning. All children have to be able to read clocks to the minute (e.g. seeing that it's 11:23) as well as seamlessly convert between 12 and 24 hour clocks by the end of Year 4. Specifically for teaching reading clocks, I'd also recommend this https://www.topmarks.co.uk/time/teaching-clock
Years 1/2 and 3/4 Spelling Lists	English	I have reattached the spelling lists from Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 since keeping these ticking over is I think very important!
Quick reading comprehensions	English	These are a selection of eight '60 second reads' comprehensions. Children should need no longer than 10 minutes to answer any one of these but they're a great, fun way to do what children don't normally enjoy! The dogs next to the questions indicate what kind of questions they are – please see the included instructions!
Thrive Activities	PSHE/General wellbeing	Already on the class web page, this is 14 days of lovely activities designed to provide something a bit different in this troubling time.
TTS Group Learning Pack	All	This is a <i>huge</i> pack of resources which is perfect for if you are low on time and want something the children can largely do on their own. It has some lovely activities in there (e.g. learning British Sign Language or writing a song about where they live).
Learning to Play the Recorder	Music	<i>This won't be included in paper packs as it requires internet access for video links.</i> This resource has fingering instructions for each note and some well-known songs to play along to along with YouTube links for further help!
Geography Project – Roman Northumberland	Geography	Our unit this term would have been a study of Northumberland's geography related to Hadrian's Wall before Summer 2's Roman invasion topic. It invites children to walk the wall and study maps. If you're struggling with internet access, you could have the children talk about places they've visited in Northumberland or use the bottom resources to look at the information about Hadrian's Wall.

A small selection of other suggested resources (these are on the website and I have mentioned all these before!)

Name	Subject	Further Information
White Rose Home Learning	Maths	https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/year-4/ These packs are arguably even better than what I've put in the home learning packs as they're specifically geared towards families and follow a day-by-day timetable. Fantastic if you're low on time!
Pobble365	English	https://www.pobble365.com A different picture every day and a series of suggested tasks to get the children writing but in a more interesting way than normal! Age appropriate for all, the children's imaginations are their only limit!
Twinkl	All	https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/parents Twinkl continues to be a great place for finding more resources on specific subjects.
Duolingo	Modern Foreign Languages	https://www.duolingo.com I personally cannot recommend Duolingo enough for a fun way to learn a language, both for young and old(er)!
List of other resources	All	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education The government have published a very long list of potential resources for <i>all</i> subjects that has something for everyone here!