



# ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH of ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL

Year 4 Summer 2 Newsletter 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family continue to be well and happy. The weather has been glorious for some weeks now (hopefully I haven't cursed it by saying that!!) and I hope that you have been able to enjoy it and that these challenging times are slowly getting a little easier.

As always, I begin with celebrating the past term's successes and, whilst the vast majority of Year 4 have not been in school, I am delighted to comment on the many lovely things that families have passed onto me. The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day was a fantastic event where our communities got to celebrate together, even if it was at an appropriate distance! From the many lovely pictures of your children and their home-made bunting and cakes to the detailed research many sent me, it was fantastic to share in some of your celebrations, even if it were via email! Similarly, I remain ever-impressed by the imagination and hard work of so many children (and their families for helping them!!), both at challenges set by me like International Nurses' Day to challenges set by children to other children. It is always a delight when my inbox pings with something from one of the class and I would love to keep receiving the myriad messages, pictures and questions that the children wish to ask.

Most of all though, the optimism, joy and kindness that I have received from both the children and yourselves, either over email or when I or Miss Burns have phoned, is something that I am particularly grateful for. I know for many people that the weeks after Easter have been particularly challenging, but I have been repeatedly cheered up by my conversations with you or things I have received from the children, from postcards to pictures to handwritten letters (one of which came with a hilarious note saying, 'Don't worry, I didn't lick the envelope'!).

To return to the main part of this letter, let me explain what I've put together:

- Just like last term, 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 things are small projects that I suggest, some are references to resources that are already on the class page, and some are references to future work that will be set in the coming week.
- A home learning pack (HLP) to last the next few weeks. The HLPs have evolved somewhat since last term with more resources being drip-fed to the class page and with organisations like Oak National Academy, BBC Bitesize and White Rose Hub rapidly improving their formal lesson offers over the past month. However, I know from conversations with many of you that an occasional bulk supply of resources in the form of a HLP is appreciated. **The specifics on the home learning pack are detailed below.**
- A message to the children has been sent in the post today which has a few more informal projects, including RE, DT, and another invitation for children to send questions and thoughts to their next school.
- On our [school's class page](#), you'll find all this plus even more resources. The class page itself was reorganised in response to parent feedback – I hope that it is clearer and has a good mix of celebrating work as well as signposting without being overwhelming!

As ever, **everything we send is optional.**

As a general note on Maths, I have had some families ask me whether to keep going with the units I've sent out or to do the daily White Rose Hub Premium lessons. Both are absolutely fine but if I had to pick just one in your position, I would choose the WRH Premium resources. Whilst the units I've sent out are aimed at teachers planning out their next few weeks of lessons, the Premium Home Learning resources are designed for daily lessons, can be led by the children rather than requiring parent supervision, and they are deliberately covering the most important aspects of Maths (number, four operations and fractions) for Year 5. I am supplying some more Maths units for the remaining topics not yet taught, but these aren't necessarily as crucial nor easy to use as what the White Rose Hub website is providing.

In terms of what's next for Year 4 transition-wise, feeder school teachers are due to meet with the head of Year 5 at GCMS, Rachel Usher, next week. I will of course keep you up to date with any information I receive from them.

For those families whose children are not in school, I, alongside Miss Burns and Mrs Armstrong, will continue to make regular phone calls to check in and say hello, most likely in the mid-afternoon. If you ever need anything else, please do feel free to email me. On a semi-related note, looking at the birthday list in front of me, I see it is a busy couple of months ahead! I will ring on your child's birthday but, if you would rather me not or you are particularly busy, please let me know and I can write a message over email.

Thank you again for all that you have done and continue to do. I can appreciate how hard the last few months have been for many of you, juggling your usual priorities with the pressures of home tutoring and the trials and tribulations of this epidemic on top. Again, I am immensely grateful to you all for doing such an amazing job with your children and for being such a fantastic group of parents to work with.

Best wishes,

Jonathan Booth

## Home Learning Pack Content and Instructions:

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

All these have been uploaded to the website very recently - on the website, they have been placed in the correct subject section and labelled 'HLP S2' which means Home Learning Pack Summer 2! I have also made a .zip file which is now in the top right of the page which has everything ready to be downloaded!

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 Premium Maths – Weeks 6, 7, 8	Maths	These resources are not in the electronic version but are within the physical for those without printer access. To access these resources electronically, please go to the dedicated WRH page on the school website (under 'Class Pages') and then complete the worksheets alongside the WRH website <a href="https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/year-4/">https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/year-4/</a>
White Rose Maths – Position and Direction & Statistics	Maths	These are similar to the units I've sent out before. They cover the final remaining units that were not covered due to the lockdown.
Quick reading comprehensions	English	The '60 second reads' have been far more popular than I anticipated! I have provided another eight on topics including wizards and world religions.
Talk for Writing 'One Chance'	English	This is a Year 5 unit but I really liked the topic overview and the children are almost in Year 5 anyway! It has a great selection of material.
Year 5 Grammar Mats	English	These are some grammar 'mats' (selection of quick Qs) from early Year 5. The children have been exposed to these already in class, from brackets to more complex adverbs, and it should be a good challenge!
Thrive Activities	PSHE/ General wellbeing	Already on the class web page, this is 21 days of lovely activities designed to provide something a bit different in this troubling time.
Archbishop of York Pack – 'Courage'	PSHE/RE	This is a workbook on what it means to be a courageous individual. Particularly useful now and as we think about transition to another school too!
Pulleys, Levers and Ramps	Science/DT	This is a PowerPoint on pulleys, levers and ramps which links to the project in the message to children. Children are encouraged to use everyday objects and consider the practical application of forces in every day life.
What Are Forces? Reading Pack	Science/ English	Directly related to the above, this covers the very basics of forces (not introduced until Year 5 but essential to understand for our DT topic and project) but through English.
Instructions for accessing Newcastle Music Service resources	Music	Newcastle Music Service has produced some resources specifically for those schools who use their service. I've attached the log in instructions so you can use the bespoke recorder and vocal resources, as well as ukulele and Gosforth Band resources.

## A small selection of other suggested resources

Name	Subject	Further Information
White Rose Home Learning	Maths	<a href="https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/year-4/">https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/year-4/</a> The school has invested in White Rose Hub Premium due to the strength of the Home Learning lessons. I deeply recommend!
Oak National Academy	All	<a href="https://www.thenational.academy">https://www.thenational.academy</a> The official government-backed online lessons, this website is excellent for lessons which require less adult input.
BBC Bitesize	All	<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize</a> Bitesize has the usual selection of small resources alongside whole lessons for some units. If you're stuck trying to understand a particular topic, Bitesize is a good place to start!
Pobble365	English	<a href="https://www.pobble365.com">https://www.pobble365.com</a> 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!
TTS Home Learning Resources	All	<a href="https://www.tts-group.co.uk/home+learning+activities.html">https://www.tts-group.co.uk/home+learning+activities.html</a> I've sent TTS packs before in earlier HLPs – if you want a long list of resources that your children can work through without extended supervision, TTS is excellent.
Duolingo	Modern Foreign Languages	<a href="https://www.duolingo.com">https://www.duolingo.com</a> I personally cannot recommend Duolingo enough for a fun way to learn a language, both for young and old(er)!
The School Run	All	<a href="https://www.theschoolrun.com">https://www.theschoolrun.com</a> This website doesn't have resources but is a guide to parents. I always recommend this website as it explains everything from how the National Curriculum is arranged to what complex grammatical terms mean in a parent-friendly way.
List of other resources	All	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education</a> The government have published a very long list of potential resources for <i>all</i> subjects that has something for everyone here!

Please note that some websites which initially offered free home learning for parents have now become premium. I know some families have asked about Twinkl in the past which was open for families at the start of the holiday but now is not.

If you discover a resource that looks excellent but is not available for free, please let me know and I can look into it. We may have a subscription in school meaning we can share certain resources or it may be something, like White Rose Hub Premium, that we may look at investing in.