

# Ellwood Community Primary School



**Bulletin - January 29th 2021**

## Return to School Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

You are most probably aware of the recent announcement that schools will continue to remain open solely to children of critical keyworkers and vulnerable children after February half term and at least until March 8<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, we find ourselves with another tentative return date and more uncertainty. We are still not convinced that the March date will be the date of return but we will keep our fingers crossed and hope that things start to improve with the virus very soon. Believe us when we say - we too share your disappointment, frustration and confusion. However, we want to ensure the return date is well planned, safe for all, the transmissions rates are reducing and the NHS can cope. We are sorry we are unable to give you a definite date of return but will keep you informed. Usually we only know of developments at the same time as the general public.

We really want :

- to see **ALL** children back in school when the time is right
- a sense of normality, as you do too
- everybody to be safe

We are here to support you and your child/ren in both their learning and their wellbeing. Our staff want to provide every child with the best access to their learning and are working hard to deliver this, alongside working in school. We know that every parent/carer is doing the utmost to provide the best for their child/ren. We need the children to continue with their remote learning at home to ensure they aren't at a disadvantage compared to their peers when they return. We also know that this is tough and challenging for everybody including staff, who are balancing their own childcare, home schooling, other family commitments and working full time. We are all doing our best and hopefully it won't be much longer until we can return to some sense of normality. So whilst the fact that schools aren't resuming is disappointing; please be reassured that together we are all striving to minimise any negative impact on the children. Children are resilient by nature and bounce back much quicker than adults. On the whole, when the children returned in September, they adapted quickly and were quick to accelerate their learning and progress. We are confident this will be the case when they return this year. Thank you for supporting your child/ren and for doing such a good job. Enjoy this extra time with them and continue to stay safe.

Mrs Milford

### **Acceptable Use Remote Learning Reminder**

If parents/carers have not completed the online acceptable use form, please can you do so by using the link below:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DcCnUH3IVEG8VapidND\\_JAG\\_VEm9KMpMh7q4\\_BqAvyFUME1ISEUwRTdJUINYUOFFQKNET1pLTUg1OS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DcCnUH3IVEG8VapidND_JAG_VEm9KMpMh7q4_BqAvyFUME1ISEUwRTdJUINYUOFFQKNET1pLTUg1OS4u)

### **Half Term - Free School Meals**

If your child is in receipt of free school meals you may apply for a voucher from Gloucestershire County Council. A letter has been sent out to all FSM parents/carers with details of how to apply.

Thank you.

### **Year 2 and Year 5 Critical Worker/Vulnerable Children**

As of Monday 1st February, due to an increase in number of children attending we have had to change the group structure and therefore the entry and exit points.

*Year 2 children (Chestnut and Beech) to enter and exit through the front hub door, near Beech class.*

*Year 5 children (Sycamore and Willow) to enter and exit through the double gates in the back playground.*

Please only send your child **if you have no other option**. We have considerably more children attending this lockdown than during the last. Therefore, potentially increasing the risk of transmission of the virus throughout our school community and families.

Thank you for your continued support.

### **February Half Term**

**We have been notified by the Local Authority that schools will not be open over the half term break to children of critical keyworkers or vulnerable children.**

## Remote Learning Offer

Subject leaders have been monitoring the learning platform and have been looking at the subject areas they are responsible for. They have been very impressed by the lessons and learning being delivered by the teachers and the quality of the work being produced and completed. The teachers are working hard to differentiate the work for different groups of children. They have made an excellent start to this over the last few weeks. Differentiating for different abilities is a challenge, when the teachers are not physically with the children and able to observe and assess them within a lesson. If in class, teachers would be able to instantly see which children were finding a task easy or challenging and adapt and scaffold, as needed. Remotely, this is much more difficult. However, there are opportunities for different groups to access different tasks as and when appropriate.

Please remember to check the class page (afternoon lessons) and year group page (morning lessons) for your child's learning activities. It appears some children are missing the non-core subject (afternoon) lessons.

Keep up the good work. !

## Webinars

It was lovely to see the children again this week on the class webinars.

Please ensure that children have their microphone muted and raise their hand if they want to talk to the class teacher, to join in.

We would appreciate it if parents could refrain from joining in on these webinars as these are for children only. Parents may be present but please do not participate. If you need to speak to a class teacher, please email them on their year group email address or phone school. Thank you.

## Calibrae – Useful Links for Parents

Please use the links below for useful tips on how to use features of the platform

### All helps:

<https://www.calibrae.com/help-category/help-for-learners>

### Messaging:

<https://www.calibrae.com/help-article/message-teacher#upgrade>

## Safer Internet Day

Our local PCSO has sent us the link below to share with parents/carers regarding internet safety.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/safer-internet-day-2021-ways-schools-and-other-settings-celebrate-remotely>

## Children's Mental Health Week

Dear Parents and Carers

Children's Mental Health Week: 1st February – 5 th February

We all know how important children's mental health is. Covid 19 and the partial closures of school may have had a negative impact on your child's mental health and wellbeing.

Next week is the national children's mental health week and as a school we believe it is crucial that we once again raise the profile and help support mental health with our children. Miss Chisman (PSHE Lead) has planned some lovely activities for the whole school.

The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is 'Express Yourself'. Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity.

It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself. As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health. Check out the free resources on the website: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

Next Friday , the class teachers will share some of the activities and suggestions for the children to reflect and take part in. There will be 'no device activities'. The activities will be available on the learning platform. We are extremely aware of the pressure parents are under, working from home and supporting their children's learning. We do not intend these activities to be yet another thing that you have to do, so please remember that it is an opportunity to reflect and take some time to relax and have some fun. Thank you once again for all you are doing to support your children at home. We are so proud of how hard everyone is working, their resilience and their perseverance.

Look out for more information from Miss Chisman.

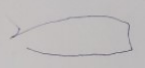
## Year 1—Home Learning Photos

Mr Rabbit  
Ellwood

To Rabbit  
you need to say  
sorry. it was not  
his.

From  
Ella

Mr Rabbit  
Burrow 26  
Ellwood



To Rabbit,  
I think you should  
try and find Bear  
and say sorry for  
taking his hat.  
This would make  
Bear happy again.  
It was unfair that  
you took his hat  
because it's not yours.  
Do you want to be friends  
again?

Mr Bear  
Big The Woods  
Lydney

To Bear  
I think you should be  
friends with rabbit because  
it would make you happy.  
Could you find rabbit and  
make friends?  
Let me know how you get on.  
Love from  
Mason

Mr Rabbit  
21 Clays

To Mr Rabbit  
Ples apologise to Bear  
because you took his hat  
Oh it make him sad  
Love from  
James A

Mr Rabbit  
Burrow 26  
Ellwood

To Rabbit,  
I think you should say sorry  
to Bear for taking his hat  
because I think that made  
Bear feel sad. Wouldn't you  
feel sad if Bear took your  
hat? I think it was unfair  
to take the hat. If you say  
sorry maybe Bear would be  
your friend again. I think  
that would be good.

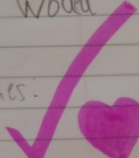
Love from Libby

Mr Rabbit Burrow 26  
ellwood

To Rabbit, I think that  
you will have to ~~do~~  
talk to Bear and say I'm  
sorry. Love from James.

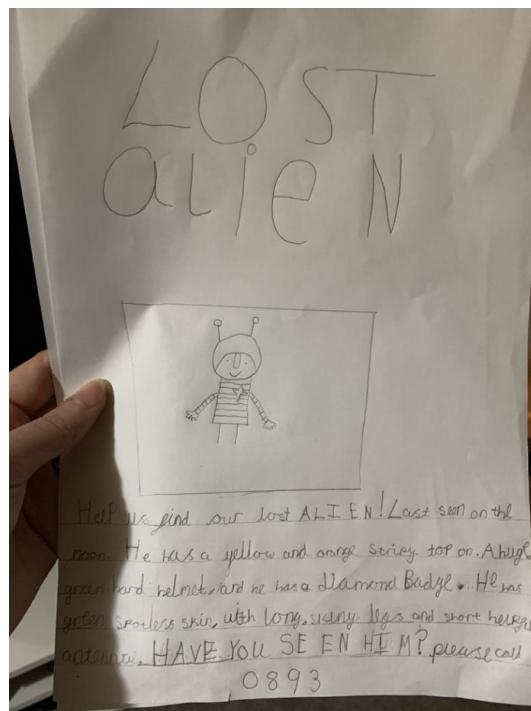
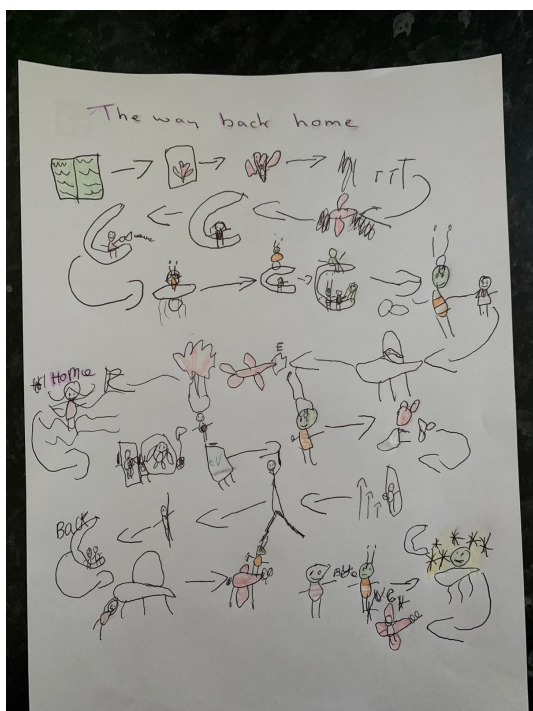
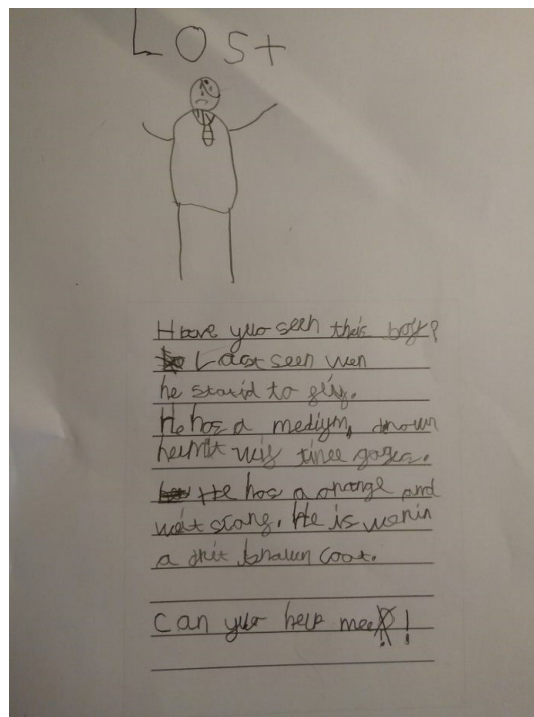
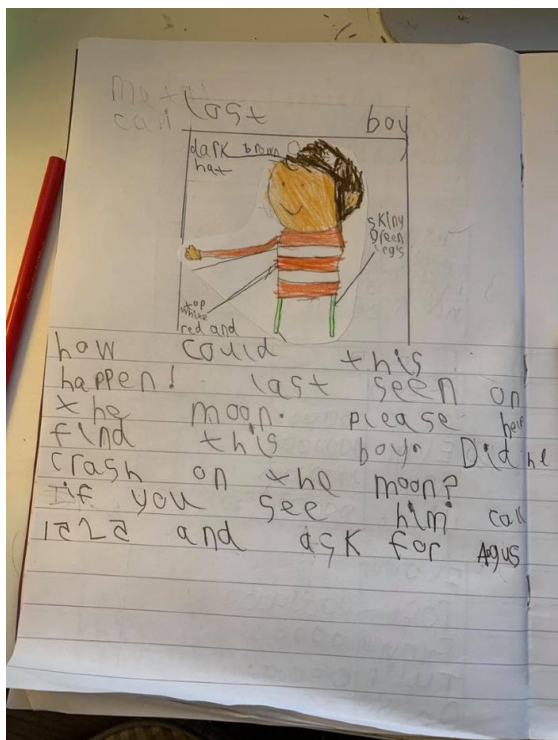
To Rabbit,  
I think you will ~~has~~  
to talk to Bear and  
say I'm sorry. That would  
make things better.

Love from James

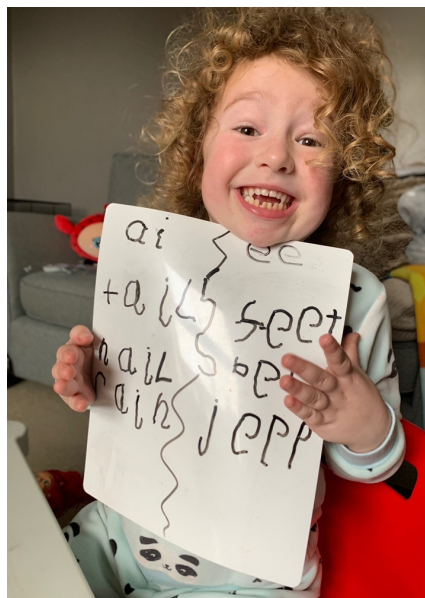
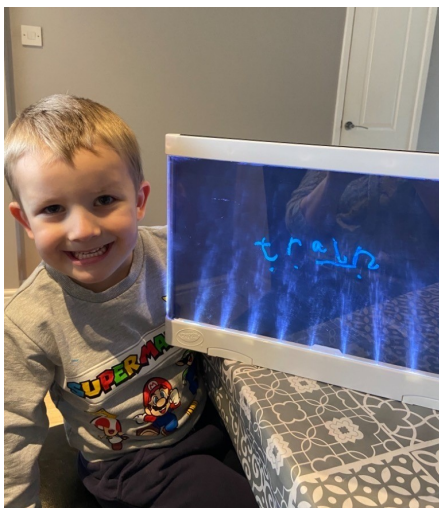
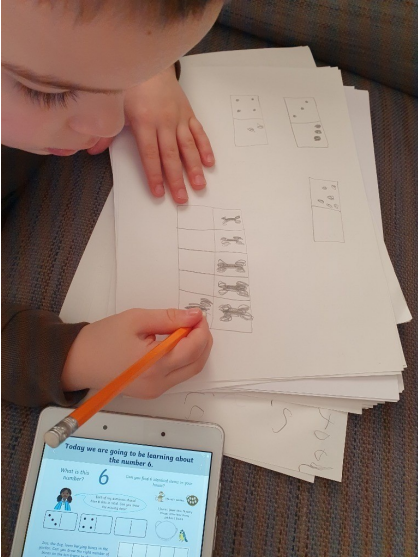




## Year 2— Some Home Learning Photos

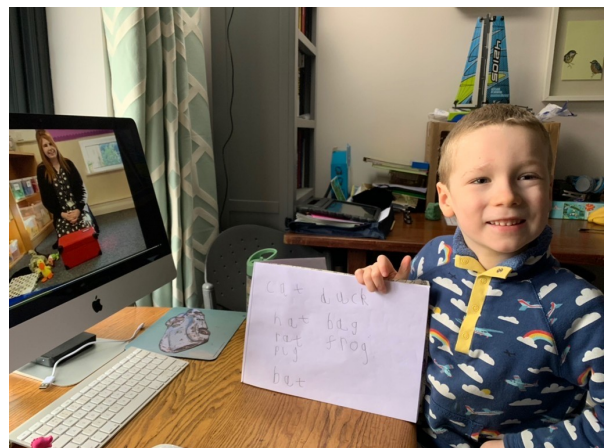
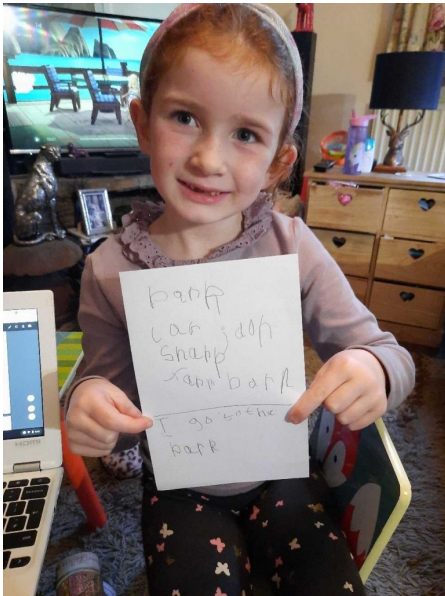


# Oak Class - Home Learning Photos





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**'A message from Forest New Life Church, Parkend',**

For some time our church has been running an after school club at one of our local schools, doing games, craft, Bible stories and songs, a kind of Sunday School. When restrictions came in due to Covid, we decided to put out a weekly video on YouTube for the children. We have decided to move this onto Zoom and invite parents and children (primary aged) to join us in a live After School Club from home.

We are starting this coming Friday, 29th January at 4pm for 30 minutes.

If this is of interest to you, or you know others who might like it, we are asking people to reply to this email to be sent the Zoom link. We are wanting this to be safe and secure for all, so there will be a few 'requirements' to agree to, for example, that a parent or responsible adult will be present in the same room as the child/ren are in.

many thanks

Jonathan Kear - 07580 141074

Forest New Life Church

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