



Preesall Fleetwood's Charity School **Spring Term**

Friday 8th January 2021

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Well this isn't the newsletter I was expecting to be writing as we start the Spring Term but here we are once again under National Lockdown with the majority of our pupils learning from home.

Home Learning:

The teachers had already planned their home learning programme, just in case, which enabled us to get things up and running as soon as we were given notice to close on Tuesday. I hope you have found these easy to access and your children are engaging in the lessons. At the end of each week, please send the teachers any completed tasks. You will receive new plans every two weeks and the teachers will be in touch with you about providing feedback on learning.

We are also currently exploring using Zoom for some group sessions for phonics and intervention so teachers will be in touch. Each teacher will also hopefully organise a Zoom session at least every other week to check in with their class. I think it is important that the children get to see their teacher and friends and have the opportunity to have a chat and ask any questions they may have. As we progress, we will hopefully be able to improve our provision and add in more 'live' learning opportunities.

Please just bear in mind that the teachers are alternating between teaching pupils in school and planning and monitoring home learning so they will select times to respond to you to fit around their teaching commitments.

As in the first lockdown, we want you to know that we understand that teaching your own child or children is going to be a challenge. You do not need to stick to the hours of the school day, do what works best for you and your family. I would recommend a minimum of 3 hours' home learning a day if possible. If you feel your child is struggling to access the activities or needs more challenge, please contact their class teacher. We are here to support you as much as you need. We all want the children to continue to make progress so we will work together to make sure this happens!

I intend to send out a parental feedback questionnaire in the middle of the half-term to get your views on how things are going.

Please can you get in touch if you have any problems with accessing remote learning due to lack of an appropriate device or lack of sufficient data.

Pupils of Critical Workers:

We would love to have more pupils attending school but what is important right now is keeping the number of children attending as low as possible in order to keep everyone safe. I would urge parents who are key workers to only send children to school if it is absolutely necessary and there is no other option. Even attending part-time if possible to work around your shifts or work pattern. Our numbers are currently considerably higher than they were in the first lockdown. Please check your ClassDojo for a message from Mrs Adams – there is a digital form to complete regarding arrangements for next week.

Contact:

If you have any questions or concerns, I would firstly recommend that you contact your child's class teacher but Mrs Potter and myself are both available if you wish to send us an email, phone school or we can arrange a Zoom meeting. I am happy to set up a regular Zoom drop-in session for parents if anyone would find this useful.

Whole School Activities:

We hope to be able to include some whole school activities through the half-term – you should be hearing about our spelling challenge soon and I also know we have a creative project to decorate the window at Knott-End barbers.

If you are not on our Facebook page, I recommend you join then you will be the first to see any extra activities or competitions! We will also post extra home-learning activities on there as many companies offer their services free.

Dance:

Although the children cannot be in school at the moment, we still have ways to keep them engaged with their dancing.

Lessons can take place in a safe and socially distanced manner for those that will be in school whilst also being available live on screen for those at home, via zoom.

This has worked wonderfully before and it can work again.

These lessons will commence this coming week and will be on Wednesdays in 2 different sessions;

Reception/Year 1,2 and 3 STREET DANCE: 2.10-2.40pm

Year 4,5 and 6 STREET DANCE: 2.50-3.20pm

All are welcome, boys and girls alike, even those that have not danced before! Grown-ups can even feel free to join in too!

This half-term we are going to offer these sessions FREE. School will cover the cost. (If you have paid, this can be transferred to next half-term).

Miss Gemma plans to do a dynamic warm up - excellent for keeping up the cardio and ensuring they're getting in that physical exercise! Followed by some stretches to maintain and enhance their flexibility and of course short routines that will differ each week to keep them on their toes! These will be to upbeat songs to keep things lively as well as creative.

Dance is important in so many ways and brings many physical and cognitive advantages to its participants! It will also be a lovely opportunity for the children to see each other over the screen!

All you will need is a device with a camera and some space at home....

Don't miss out! Email Miss Gemma for your link, to book your place or for any information.

gcocker@fleetwoods.lancs.sch.uk

It was amazing to see their smiles and feel their energy through the screen last time!

School Milk

We have been notified that automatic refunds will be processed for all parents who have paid for School Milk for this term. We do not imagine that this will be immediate, but we have been assured that it is in hand.

Tempest

The photographers were due to be with us this week for individual and in-school sibling photographs, but we have arranged for them to come in to school on 15th June instead. This year we will only be having a whole class photo for Elm, unless we receive multiple requests for the other class groups to have a photograph.

Parent Pay Refunds

If you would like to be refunded on ParentPay for items paid for in advance for this term, please contact Mrs Adams – bursar@fleetwoods.lancs.sch.uk

Christmas Trees

Thank you for the donations of Christmas Trees; there are now 13 trees in our Forest School for the children to build dens and create wildlife habitats.

I fully appreciate everything you are doing right now. If we can be of any further assistance in any way, you know where we are.

Kind regards,

Mrs Gladwin