



THE FEDERATION OF MIDDLEHAM CE (VA) AND SPENNITHORNE
CE (VC) SCHOOLS' NEWSLETTER



8th January 2021

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Dear Parents

My availability next week:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
w/c 11/1/21	MH	MH	MH	MH	MH
w/c 18/1/21	MH	MH	MH	MH	MH

WELCOME BACK?

So, I would normally start the first newsletter of the year saying welcome back but unfortunately, Boris had other plans. We did try to open because I felt it was important for our pupils' mental health but it seems this pandemic is taking another turn and we need to keep ourselves safe.

We found out about school closure at exactly the same time as you did and had just over 12 hours to turn this around. Late night Zoom staff calls demonstrated to me how every member of our staff team is committed to making the best of a rather horrid situation for your child.

We have learnt from the first lockdown and are trying to make the learning better. Before, the learning was not statutory but now it is and we are working to ensure we offer 3-5 hours of learning per day as per government guidelines as we change and adapt all our planning.

We are adapting our Zoom lessons so there are limited clashes between class lessons. See below for further information.

Sadly, Gavin Williamson, the education secretary, has suggested parents complain to OFSTED should the online learning not be good enough. If you feel it isn't, please talk to me and I will happily help to resolve your concerns. However, if you feel my staff are doing a good job having had only 12 hours' notice, please let me know too. In fact, please let OFSTED know too. Email enquires@ofsted.gov.uk or Twitter @Ofstednews

Home schooling for 3-5 hours a day whilst you are also working from home is challenging and I absolutely understand. I know, like us, you will do the best you can and I thank you for it. If you are struggling with the work, make sure they join in with the English/maths Zoom lessons as a minimum and the phonics/spelling lessons too. If your child does not want to appear on camera, keep the camera off and drop us an email so we know why.

ZOOM LESSONS AND GOOGLE CLASSROOM

We will post a weekly timetable on Google classroom so you know when Zoom lessons are. Work is posted on a daily basis linked to what is on the timetable with Zoom links posted there too. The username and password for access to Google Classroom is in your child's reading record. If you are having problems, let me know and I can help you and lead you through it, using a Zoom call.



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We are changing the timings of Zoom lessons as they clashed and many of your children might be sharing 1 device. The main clashes were between the Rabbits and Badgers classes.

As from next week, if you have requested printed work, we will have a pack for the week (rather than daily) that can be collected from outside Middleham School.

We have also organised reading books on a weekly basis for pupils in Years R -3. These will be ready each Monday. Please return the books you have in a named bag and we will give you a replacement book.

For pupils in Year 4-6, your child's next book is ready for collection but we know you might not need them on a weekly basis as these books are larger and more challenging. They are ready for you to collect as and when you need them. Please return the books that you have in a labelled bag and we will swap them.

It would also be hugely appreciated if you can post the work completed by 3.30-4pm so that it can be responded to and marked by the class teacher.

I will also be calling you if you are working at home on a weekly basis just to check in and see how things are going and how you all are.

BBC BITESIZE

The BBC is offering free support to parents to help with home schooling, please access this using the link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

SCHOOL DINNERS

We will be continuing to offer school dinners and also, we will be running our tuck shop on Fridays too.

CAROL SERVICE

It seems such a long time ago but thank you for attending our carol service at the end of last term and following the rules to keep us all safe.

It was absolutely magical and I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

Thanks must go to Mr and Mrs Smith who kindly lent us some lighting and Mr and Mrs Tempest who gave us power.

CHARITY MONEY

We raised £190.50 selling our candles and £81 on Christmas jumper day. This will be added to with events planned during the year. This money will go to our chosen charity, NHS Charities Together at the end of the year.

SPORTS CLUB

There is no sports club running at the present moment.



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