

# NEWSLETTER - 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021



## Remote Learning and Lockdown

At the end of 2020 I wished you all a Happy New Year, I am pretty sure that this new year was not what I meant or what any of us wanted, but as always, our school community has pulled together and made the transition from school being open to all to school being open for critical and vulnerable children, as seamless as possible. On behalf of the entire staff we want to say thank you for the positive feedback we have received about our new remote learning offer and the improvements we have made since March. I also want to say thank you to parents for helping support the children at home with this new way of learning, we know that for some children they may initially find it hard but we are working on how to make it more effective and to ensure, as a school, we are supporting all of our families. Next week I will be sending out a survey in regards to home learning as I would be really interested to see what else we could do to support our families. I know there is constant speculation and updates in regards to school education, laptops and free school meals etc but, as and when any new guidance comes out, I will let you know. Until then please continue to stay safe and take care of each other.

Mrs Garratt

## Maternity Update

It is my pleasure to be able to let you know that yesterday Mrs Seville's baby daughter arrived. Both are doing really well and I know you will join me in welcoming her daughter to the Highfields family!



## Remote Learning

The DfE and Ofsted have very clear expectations of what remote learning should look like and all schools now have to post theirs on their school websites. There is a

lot of discussion at the moment about misconceptions that a live lesson = a better lesson so I have attached the following tweet/video above released this week by Ofsted to hopefully reassure parents that it is actually the quality of the lesson being taught then how they are delivered which is most important. [Ofsted on Twitter: "Remote learning tips from Ofsted's @ProfDanielMuijs - 'We don't have to make huge changes to the way we teach.' https://t.co/J8vVWw5WHe7" / Twitter](https://t.co/J8vVWw5WHe7)



## Packed Lunch scheme

Today we have received notification that the Government national voucher scheme will recommence from 18/1/21. We will move to using the voucher scheme from 25th January 2021 and will be in touch with the families this affects in the coming days.

## Blue Peter

Blue Peter is the longest running kid's TV show in the world and we are uploading videos to it that are suitable for 5-11 year olds. We have world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking how to's, inspirational films, gaming, celebrity appearances, dance routines and music performances. We also feature ways of getting a Blue Peter badge, behind the scenes footage and extra content about our incredible presenters Adam, Lindsey, Mwaksy, Richie and Henry the Blue Peter dog. If you think your child would be interested in this, please subscribe

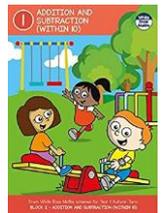


to <https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter> - (it's obviously completely free to subscribe!) and don't forget to watch the live programme on CBBC at 5.00pm every week, or on BBC iPlayer.

The Blue Peter Team!

## Home Learning Help

Some parents have asked if there any additional resources or apps we would recommend to use alongside our remote learning. Every fortnight in the newsletter I will include anything that we can find that parents can access for free. If you have anything that you use that you feel would help others, please let me know. Amazon are currently selling for free, White Rose maths booklets that parents might find useful. The link you need is [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Kindle-Store-White-Rose-Maths/s?rh=n%3A341677031%2Cp\\_27%3AWhite+Rose+Maths](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Kindle-Store-White-Rose-Maths/s?rh=n%3A341677031%2Cp_27%3AWhite+Rose+Maths)



## Reading Resources

A parent has kindly recommended to us an app called 'Meet Libby' which is available free on the Apple and Google play store. The app allows people to login to their local libraries and access available e books with their current library card. The app allows parents to filter content for their child and to choose appropriate titles for them to read. This might be another useful resource for families to use to access reading books.

Mrs. Lewis

## Exercise Books

If your child/children come to the end of their exercise book please do not go and buy another, if you let school know we will have a constant supply ready that you could collect from the front office. If you could please let school know when you are available to collect them, we can make sure there is a safe and socially distanced process in place.



# COVID FAMILY SUPPORT CONTACTS

We have been asked to provide all of our families with the following details and contacts. These are numbers that may help and support our families during these times. If school can help with anything or offer you any advice, please contact school.

## COVID Winter Grant

<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/wintergrant>

## Financial Advice & Help

If you are worried about debt to Sandwell Council, please call 0121 569 5333 Council Tax Reduction, Discretionary Housing Payment, Welfare Rights, Self-isolation payments, Money Advice amongst others

[https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200354/coronavirus\\_advice/4460/get\\_financial\\_help](https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200354/coronavirus_advice/4460/get_financial_help)

## Resilient Residents

Lots of Advice and contacts for a whole range of needs (Benefits Checker, debt advice, budgeting and money management, employment advice and support, well-being, food, help in an emergency)

[https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200347/resilient\\_residents](https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200347/resilient_residents)

## Foodbanks

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

Telephone: 01384 671250 Email:

[admin@blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:admin@blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk)

If you don't have access to a voucher please call the above number.

RESTORE, Transformation Church, 1 Station Road, Rowley Regis West Midlands B65 0LI

Opening Hours: Wednesday 11:30 - 13:00

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH – OLD HILL, Halesowen Road,

Cradley Heath B64 6JA

Opening Hours: Monday 10:00 - 12:00

COMMUNITY LINK, 72 High Street, Cradley Heath, B64 5HA

Opening Hours: Thursday 13:00 - 15:00

<https://www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk/locations/>

## Emergency Food Parcel

Midland Langar Seva Society 24-hr Emergency Parcel Delivery: 07903 400179

## Black Country Women's Aid

0121 552 6448 (24/7 Helpline)

07384 466181 (Text or WhatsApp 9am – 9pm)

## Rethink Emotional Support

<https://www.rethink.org/help-in-your-area/services/advice-and-helplines/the-black-country-emotional-support-helpline/>

Rethink Emotional Support Helpline is a freephone service for those who are in need of support, reassurance and understanding. The service can be contacted on 0808 802 2208 at the following times:

Monday- Friday 6.00pm – 3.00am

Saturday- Sunday 2.00pm – 3.00am

We are now offering Text/webchat support during our opening hours:

Text 07860 065 168

Webchat [www.rethink.org/blackcountryhelpline](http://www.rethink.org/blackcountryhelpline)

## Kaleidoscope Plus Group

The Kaleidoscope Plus Group works to promote and support positive health and wellbeing

<https://www.kaleidoscopeplus.org.uk/self-help-tool.php>

Chat to us via telephone, online through our website or directly through Facebook and a member of our team will be with you as soon as possible to talk

Call 0800 059 0123 Monday-Sunday between 5pm & 9pm

Messenger: Monday-Friday: 9am-8pm & Saturday-Sunday: 5pm-8pm

## Bereavement

Unfortunately, some of us may lose someone through coronavirus. There are many organisations who can help.

Cruse Bereavement Care has online resources to support you and your family during this distressing time. This includes how this pandemic may affect bereavement and grief. They offer a free helpline: 0808 808 1677

## Black Country NHS Mental Health Support 24/7

Our new mental health support phone line is operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is available to Black Country residents of all ages. Call 0800 008 6516

If you are experiencing increased distress or anxiety during these uncertain times, please don't suffer in silence, pick up the phone and speak to one of our specialist mental health professionals who will be able to support you.

We continue to provide support through our Healthy Minds / Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services which offer psychological therapy services for people experiencing common mental health problems such as low mood, depression, anxiety and stress. You can also access free online CBT via our SilverCloud platform.

<https://www.blackcountryhealthcare.nhs.uk/contact-us/help-crisis>