

15th April, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

First and foremost, I hope that this newsletter finds you and your family as well as possible, despite the challenging circumstances that we experience. As we all settle to a new routine, find our feet and try to make the best of the situation, I hope that you are all okay.

Secondly, thank you so much for your work at home to support and encourage your child or children as they complete tasks set by the teachers. We want to help as much as we can and hope the ideas and suggested tasks have been as useful, progressive and engaging as possible. We've received lots of positive feedback on the home learning provision so far - thank you for this. We will continue to evaluate this aspect of our work to ensure that it is as effective and as helpful as possible. If you need to contact school, please feel free to either ring and leave a message or email.

Reading

Of all the things pupils learn to do, reading is perhaps the most important. In the absence of books from school, I thought it may be useful to share some ways that you can help reading during this time at home.

Oxford Owl, provided by Oxford University Press, has a super series of e-books for children aged 3 - 11 years. There is a great range of material here, with books organised clearly in sections according to age or book band. We highly recommend this site. If you need to know your child's book band, just let us know via Tapestry or See-Saw.



<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/books/free-ebooks/>

National Geographic Kids has lots of articles, fun facts and information on a range of topics from around the world.



<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>

BBC Newsround has lots of child-friendly news articles.

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



Teach Your Monsters to Read

offers a free game-based approach to learning phonics that continues to reading full sentences. It's engaging and fun.

<https://www.teachyourmonsterstoread.com>

Phonics Bloom provides online phonics games to help teach children the relationship between letters and sounds.

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com>



E-Safety



With increased use of online communication at the moment, e-safety is more important than ever. Thinkuknow, the national online safety education programme from CEOP has produced a help sheet with advice and links to resources that parents can use at home to keep their children safe online while they are off school.

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/globalassets/professional/thinkuknow_primary_parents_helpsheet.pdf

Thinkuknow is also releasing new home activity packs with simple 15 minute activities you can do with your children to support their online safety. The first pack is available to download now, and there will be new material available every fortnight.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/>

If your child is worried about the Coronavirus, you may find Dave The Dog, an e-book produced by the NHS, a useful resource to explain things and reassure. It's most suitable for children up to Year 3.

<https://www.supportinmindscotland.org.uk/dave-the-dog>

Home Learning - Computing

With almost all of our educational activities being shared electronically at the moment, we realise that an effective computing solution is needed to access the work. If you are struggling to access resources shared by the teachers, please contact school so that we can explore a solution.

Termly Progress Reports

You will receive a termly progress report next week which will update you on your child's work during the spring term.

Contacting School

Although school is closed to the majority of pupils, you can still contact us by phone or email.

School Phone Number: 01768 894247 (Please leave a message)

School Office Email: admin@plumpton.cumbria.sch.uk

Headteacher's Email: head@plumpton.cumbria.sch.uk

With best wishes,

Mrs Penny

Headteacher