



COLD HARBOUR
C of E Primary School

GROWING, LEARNING, ACHIEVING TOGETHER
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12th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

The end of the first Spring half term has arrived and I would like to thank all of our families for the continued support you have given us these past six weeks. Supporting children at home whilst others are at school was always going to be a challenge and I cannot thank our staff enough for their time and dedication into making sure our children are provided with the best educational experiences in these exceptional circumstances. This past week in particular, we have received some lovely messages from parents which have been very much appreciated.



Having worked in a number of schools now, when I started at Cold Harbour in September, I could see that the school's IT provision was not fit for purpose in these circumstances and so we have worked very hard in upskilling our staff and upgrading our equipment. It's still a work in progress but we are getting there! If any of you are still struggling with access to a device for your child to work from or you need better internet access, please do get in touch and we will do our very best to help.

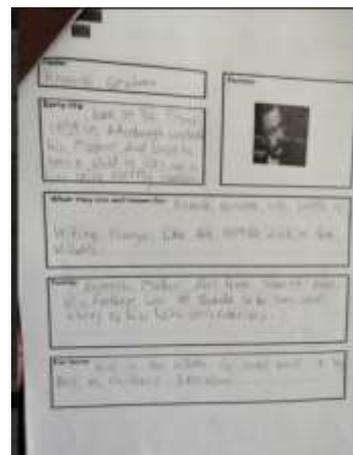
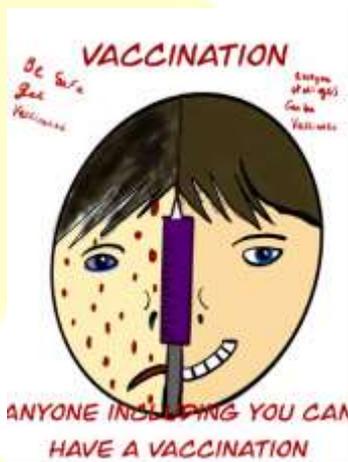
At least this week, our children got to play in some snow... even a little sprinkle makes their faces light up and it's a good distraction from everything else that is going on in the world.

Headteacher's award

A number of certificates have been sent this week to those children who have consistently worked hard at home and submitted their work. Really, these awards should include all those family members who have supported their children with their learning too. You have done an amazing job in ensuring that your children continue with their learning so that they can hit the ground running when we eventually return to some semblance of normality and we thank you for all your efforts.

Fantastic work!

It has been another wonderful week for work both in and outside of school - we've even had some videos!



Covid-19 testing during the half term break

Please could you continue to advise the school if you or any of your household members have a Covid-19 test during half term (or at any other time). We should be informed of every test as we are monitoring instances within our school community. These results are stored securely and are used for statistical purposes. Please send your NHS results to us at office@coldharbour.milton-keynes.sch.uk Thank you for your continued support.



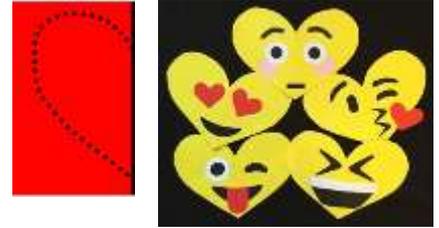
Half term break

Over the next week's break there are a few traditional celebrations taking place across the country. Just in case we are stuck inside with wintry weather, here are some simple suggestions for some child centred family activities for you to carry out at home.

Heart-Shaped Emoji Valentines. Happy Valentines to you all!

These simple emoji faces are cute crafts and a great way to practice simple cut and paste skills. The adorable heart shape is great for a Valentine's theme or just for fun!

These emoji faces can be made from scratch with construction paper or using the template.



Tuesday 16th February: What do we celebrate on Shrove Tuesday?

Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were “shriven” (absolved from their sins). Traditionally, people run in a race with a pancake in a pan. As they run, they have to toss the pancake (throw the pancake in the air and catch it in the pan) several times. In some pancake races people dress up in fancy dress costumes. Why not have your own family pancake garden race?!

Wednesday 17th February

Ash Wednesday is **important** because it marks the start of the Lenten period leading up to Easter, when Christians believe Jesus was resurrected. The ashes symbolise both death and repentance. During this period, Christians show repentance and mourning for their sins, because they believe Christ died for them. On this day, why not have a quiet reflection time and think about the everyday errors we all make and how to change. Some people give up something they enjoy during Lent, such as chocolate, sugar in tea, biscuits, sweets etc. Could you do that? Write and illustrate a short, handy prayer that can remind and inspire you this Lent.

CBBC update

The school has been contacted by the CBBC Team and I'd like to share this with you. The BBC has revamped their CBBC YouTube Channel. They are inviting families across the country to take a look for entertainment at half term and outside of home-schooling hours, and during lockdown.

The BBC is uploading videos daily that are suitable for 5-11 year olds. To quote, *“We have all the top CBBC brands on here, with a wide range of genres from factual shows, news, dramas, comedy to entertainment. Programmes like Horrible Histories, Blue Peter, Newsround, The Next Step, Saturday Mash-Up, Operation Ouch, the Playlist, the Dumping Ground, Heirs of the Night and Jamie Johnson. We are also welcoming back Dani Harmer in the brilliant new programme My Mum Tracy Beaker”.*

If you are interested in this, you are invited to subscribe to www.youtube.com/cbbc - (it's obviously completely free to subscribe!) and don't forget to watch the CBBC live daily and on the BBC iPlayer.

School Return for Key Worker Children

School opens again after the half term on Monday 22nd February for key worker children. Distance learning will be posted on ParentMailPMX and ClassDojo for everyone else. Home Learning packs will be ready for collection on **Monday 22nd February 2021.**

- Y5/6 - 8.00am
- Y3/4 - 9.00am
- Y1/2 - 10.00am

In the meantime, have a lovely half term and enjoy a well deserved break with your families.

Claire.