

Millhouse News

We hope you and your families are well and staying safe. Our thoughts are with all of you and your families. We know some of you have unfortunately lost family and friends to this disease and we sincerely offer my deepest condolences. And to those who are unwell or supporting loved ones battling this disease, stay strong and know you are in all of our thoughts.

Following the news that lockdown and school closures will continue, all of us will have found different ways we have adapted to the new normal; whether that be going out every day for work, working from home and balancing childcare/home schooling; through to dealing with the health of family and friends. We probably have all felt at times guilty that we are not doing what we should be. There have been and will be days that are challenging and difficult, but try and find the positives this extraordinary time can offer.

A huge thanks to everyone – we all play a part in keeping safe by staying at home.



24th April 2020

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Tel: 01268 543584

General Information

We have set up email addresses for each year group. These are to enable parents to contact the teachers in each year group about any home learning concerns or questions. They can also be used to email examples or work or photos if you can't do this on the Google Classroom. Please do not use these emails to ask the teachers questions about whole school topics or welfare concerns. These should be directed to the admin email address for the school. Teachers won't necessarily reply straight away but they will get back to you within 24 hours. The email addresses will be sent as a separate document with this newsletter.

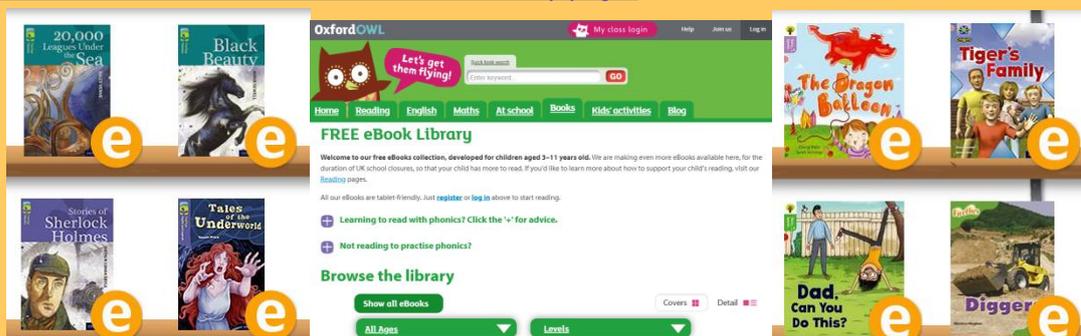
We will send a newsletter to parents every week and include any relevant updates to the current situation. We will also continue to email parents separately if there is any important information to share, including plans for re-opening as and when this happens (which we do not have any information on at present).

Home Learning

Running out of reading books at home?

The Oxford Owl website has a large selection of free levelled ebooks for all ages and levels that link with our school's reading scheme books. You just need to register, then go to the free ebook library and choose the level or age of book you want.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>



Staff Update

If you have been wondering what our teachers and staff have been getting up to when they are not setting your lessons on the Google classroom or home-schooling their own children, here are a selection of things that they have been doing.

Some of them have been getting creative; learning new artistic skills such as cross-stitching or learning a new musical instrument. Lots have been keeping fit by going for walks and runs, doing yoga or taking part in the PE with Joe Wicks sessions. Many staff are lucky to have gardens and have been using the time to improve their gardens or undertake DIY tasks at home. Others have been helping in their local community.

Over the coming weeks we will tell you more about what each team has been doing whilst we are away from our pupils so look out for the latest updates (and hopefully photos too)!

Speech and Language Opportunities

Board games are a great way of developing your child's speech and language skills during this time at home. There are lots out there but 'Guess who' in particular is a great one to use! It can help develop reasoning and comprehension skills, listening and attention skills, descriptive vocabulary as well as formulating accurate/grammatically correct sentences and questions. Best of all – it's fun. Why not set aside some time for a family board game that gets everyone chatting!



Try Something New!

Have you or your child tried something new whilst we have been away from school?

How about trying out a new recipe? Perhaps a tasty cake or some sweets or if you are feeling adventurous maybe a three course meal for someone special!

Well-Being

During this time some people may be finding it more difficult than usual to cope and manage their everyday life. There are some really useful websites that suggest ways in which we can help ourselves and others if needed:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

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

<https://www.annafreud.org/>

If you are concerned about you or your child's emotional well-being, please email the school office (admin@millhouse.essex.sch.uk) for the attention of Mrs Haken and we will try our best to support you.

Star Values

Just because we are not at school, doesn't mean that we are not practicing our schools' star values. There are many opportunities to further develop these during lockdown. Over the coming weeks we will show you examples of how people demonstrate our star values. Maybe as a family, pick a star value to focus on together and have fun!

Respect – Respect the home by keeping bedrooms tidy and carry out daily chores

Creativity – Make every day different by inventing some new games

Independence – Why not try completing your homework without being asked!

Resilience – How about keeping a diary to write down your frustrations?

Perseverance – Keep hanging on in there and remember... 'if at first you don't succeed, try and try again!

Self-Belief – Give daily compliments and share your positive thoughts with other in your household.

Celebrations!

Look at some of the fantastic learning and achievements from some of our pupils!
If you upload pictures or work to Google Classroom, it may appear on here! Also, if anyone is celebrating a birthday or another special occasion or does something really special, email your year group teachers and they will make sure it gets mentioned.

