



Midsomer Norton Primary School

'Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership'

High Street
Midsomer Norton
Radstock BA3 2DR
Tel: 01761 412289
Fax 01761 415896

Head Teacher:
Mr Alun Randell

office@midsomernortonprimary.co.uk
www.midsomernortonprimary.co.uk

Friday 29th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

It has been yet another very busy week for all of our children and families whether in school or at home. Once again, I am thoroughly impressed by the amazing job you are all doing!

Thank you for the very kind feedback we continue to receive and also to those of you who were able to respond to last week's survey. We had 97 responses with 98.9% agreeing that tasks and lessons set using Google Classroom clearly explained what the children should be learning and 92.7% agreeing work set was of an appropriate level of difficulty. Teaching remotely is very different to teaching in person and there will inevitably be times when tasks may be either somewhat challenging or not challenging enough for particular children. Please continue to get in touch if there are issues so that we can seek to address them. I have been lucky enough to join quite a number of live lessons this week and the levels of engagement and participation are wonderful.

Uploading work to Google classroom

One of the best ways for teachers to receive feed back in the current situation is to upload a picture of your child's work. This is not mandatory but we do encourage children to do this if possible. As you can imagine, it is not possible for teachers to comment on every piece of work but it does enable them to see how a child is coping and to celebrate their work.

Mr Andrew has put together some video guides for how to submit work:

Phone: <https://youtu.be/qQPnT29HI60>

Tablet: <https://youtu.be/GilZ16UGIPg>

Computer: <https://youtu.be/IDSOzDj3DSI>

The phone and tablet versions are recorded on an iPhone through the Google Classroom app, so may not look exactly like your device if you are using an Android platform or the webpage on your device. However, they are all broadly the same so just follow your nose a bit and we are sure you will find it! Once you get in the habit of it you can do all the work for the day in less than a minute!

Reading & borrowing books

The single most important thing children can do to support their learning and enable them to broaden their vocabulary and understanding is to read regularly. With school closed for most children along with libraries, maintaining access to books is vital. Teachers of our younger children will direct families to specific online readers that link to their phonics lessons, but we also have a supply of readers for developing readers and library books for more confident readers available in our office. These books are surplus to requirements so do not need to be returned to school but we would also like to



cycle them through our community. Please drop in to the office reception area on Mondays or Fridays to help yourself or to swap for books that you may no longer need. We are not looking for donations of books as we still have about 60 books waiting to be collected for charity; however, we would be very happy to be a hub for getting books to all of our children. If you are dropping off books, please place them in the box marked returns so that they can be quarantined for 3 days before being put out for families to choose from.

Expectations during live teaching

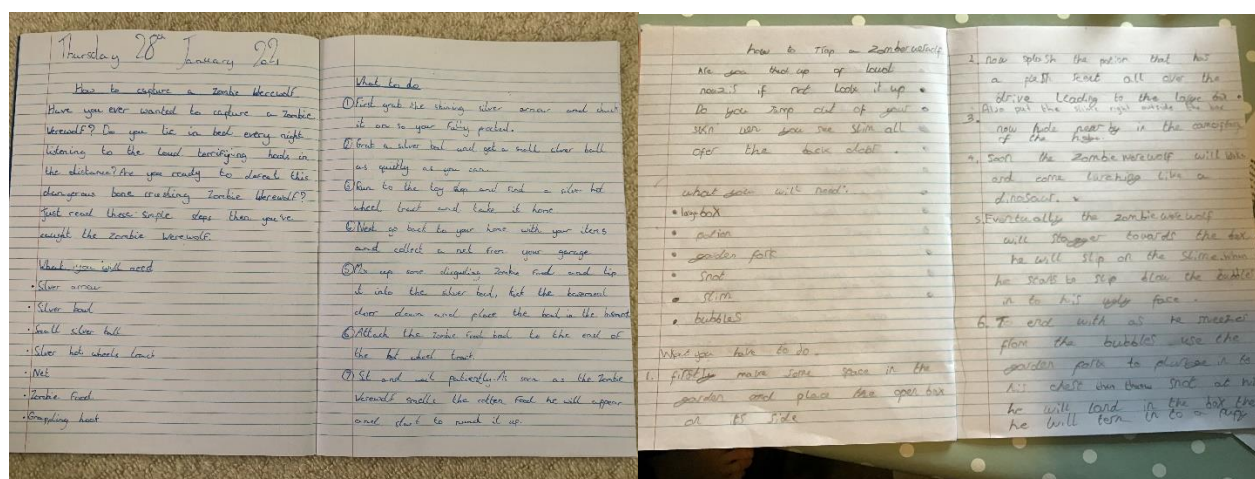
Behaviour in our live lessons has been very good overall. We would like our children to continue to maintain the high standards we expect in school. We believe it is important for children to recognise that they need to take their learning responsibly and to avoid distracting other pupils (and the teacher!). Please try to make sure that your child is fully dressed rather than in pyjamas and that pets and younger siblings are not visible during lessons. For full guidance, on what we expect please click [here](#).

Children's Mental Health Week

Next week, it is Children's Mental Health Week. We will be taking somewhat different approach to learning with English and maths lesson as usual but PSHE activities every afternoon focusing on creativity and the theme 'Express Yourself'. We will be finishing off by encouraging children to dress in fancy dress or to dress up a potato instead! Please see today's letter from Mrs Forster for more details.

Amazing work

It's fantastic to see our children working with such determination at home. Here are just two that caught my eye in Neptune class and Uranus class. Well done Ralphie and Jack!



We hope our children families and staff have a restful weekend!

Best wishes,

Alun Randell
Head Teacher