

The Downs Primary School and Nursery

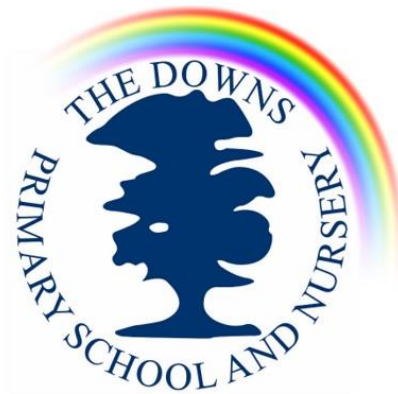
The Hides, Harlow, Essex, CM20 3RB.

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Friday 12th February 2021

This week Miss Weekly and I attempted live lessons to meet with the children and we contacted many of you if your child was not online for this lesson in an attempt to find out why and what we could do to support their learning. We do this so we can better understand all the various needs of our families. We also ask that if your child is on a live lesson, and they are being asked to answer and talk, that background noise is kept to a minimum just for that part of the lesson. It is really hard to hear if there is a lot of background noise and chatting. Please also remember that the live lessons your child's teacher does can be viewed at a time that better suits your family needs if this is not possible.

We want to end the half term with thanking you for all your support this half term. Remote learning is new to everyone and we recognise that you been supportive through all the various teething problems and you have told us what works best for you. This has allowed us to adapt and develop our offer for remote learning. We have been attempting more live lessons and will continue to do so, but I have to say just because the technology to do this is there does not necessarily mean it is easy. Once again, I will say if you are not happy with something please contact us so we can work together to help your child to continue their learning.

Many of you will welcome the break from home learning, but if you do want a nice project for your child to do please go to this link called:

Drawing moments

This is an optional homework project that some children might like to take part in and there is a prize! We have also attached a template and information for you to use. <https://www.bottlemoments.com/covid-19-kids>

MIND in Harlow are asking Children and Young People to share their ideas and experiences of lockdown with them. Please either send them your drawing/poster or a short video with your coping tips. They have some small prizes for all entries received. Please ensure you clearly mark your entries with your name and school! See attached flyer for more information.

There has been a revamp to the [CBBC YouTube Channel](#).

You may be interested in this for entertainment at half term and outside of home-schooling hours. Each day videos that are suitable for 5-11 year olds are uploaded and it is free to sign up you just need to subscribe to www.youtube.com/cbbc. Please see attached flyer.

Just a reminder that there are lots of stories available to our children via our own school YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLe2GYPq02PVCqVfdCBvit2ew7i8y6TCY>

We hope you have been seeing the messages from staff and that this has helped children to feel in contact with wider members of our school community. We also think the loan of laptops and wi-fi and

calls from teachers will all have helped children during this time but if you are worried about your child call us and we will try to help.

We will continue to hand out breakfast foods after half term please just come in and collect what you need and if you do need food we can give you a parcel from the foodbank,

We have only had 71 responses to this survey, if you could fill it in it would be most appreciated: This consultation closes today.

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/sustainable-travel-planning-team/7b5ef7c1/>

If your child has been in school this week and tests positive for Covid up to 72 hours (3 days) after their last day in school, please email the school admin address with this information, so we can support test and trace. Please email admin@downs.esex.sch.uk

In school we are thinking about how we can celebrate World Book Day this year which is on Thursday 4th March. Children usually dress up as a book character, but this year we would like to do more. Staff have some good ideas and if you have any please share them with the teacher through email. We will send you some information on what we plan to do at the end of the first week after half term.

To end we wanted to make sure you are all aware that we have been planning virtual visits for the children to take part in. Some of these are free (but not all) we will pay from catch up funding because we think this will be a good experience for children for maximising learning and enjoyment in the only way we can right now. Our only concern is that we really do not want children to miss out. The teacher will let you know when your child's class will have these live lessons, so please prioritise this for your child to take part in.

Children have been earning house points:



Have a safe and relaxing half term break and remote lessons will resume on Monday 22nd. This is also the day we are expecting an announcement from the government outlining their plans for schools to be fully open and for all children to return to school, we will therefore update you when we know more.

For those of you that would like to join us in our live stream dance event on Friday afternoon at 2.45pm here is the link: <https://youtu.be/jmCUZwPdhK8>

Have a lovely half term week.

Kind regards

Ms Jeanette Allen
Headteacher

Key Dates for the Spring Term 2021	
Monday 15 th February – Friday 19 th February	Half Term – School Closed
Thursday 4 th March	World Book Day
Friday 19 th March	Red Nose Day
Monday 29 th March – Friday 9 th April	Easter Holidays – School Closed