

**Pickering Community Infant & Nursery School**  
**School Newsletter No 8**  
**Friday 8th January 2021**



**Welcome to the Spring Term 2021**

What a start to the new year it has been. I would like to once again thank everyone in our school community for your patience and understanding while we manage the partial closure of our school. Our decisions so far have been based on the government announcement and associated general guidance as well as trying to do what we believe are in the best interests of everyone in our school community. Further Government Guidance was shared with schools at the end of the day yesterday. We are working through this and will update you if there are any changes following this. School remains closed for all children except those classed as vulnerable and for those who have a parent who is a critical worker. For this second group, we continue to ask that, where possible, parents keep children at home if they can.

Staff across school are busy working on different resources to support families working and learning at home. We appreciate your understanding during the first few days of this new lock down whilst we establish our home learning offer for this time. Home learning packs should be with you now for next week. This contains most of the learning for next week but there will be other emails, including video links and other specific learning tasks for your child too. Further details can be found on the next page.

**Handouts**

Hard copies:

☞ Basketball club letter—Hedgehog class only

☞ New Year lunch letter—Packed lunch children in school only

Email:

☞ Basketball club Risk Assessment – Hedgehog class only



**Communication**



Please remember to keep checking Parent Mail for updates. We will also continue to use Facebook and Twitter for sharing information and celebrating learning at home and school across our community. Follow us at [facebook.com/PickeringInfant](https://facebook.com/PickeringInfant) and [@PickeringInfant](https://twitter.com/PickeringInfant) on Twitter

Please share or retweet your favourite posts

## Home Learning

We have listened to feedback from parents and intend to send home learning to parents weekly, on a Friday morning, during this lock down again.

Parents wanted their home learning pack before the weekend to give them time to look through and prepare for the following week. The parents that we have spoken to recently have told us that having the learning for the whole week helps them to get things printed in advance, particularly if they don't have access at home to a printer. We are still offering printed versions of packs too if you contact Mrs Cook on

[admin2@pickering-inf.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin2@pickering-inf.n-yorks.sch.uk).

This also gives parents the opportunity to manage the home learning timetable around their own work needs and can plan to do some of the learning that children may be able to do more independently at a time where they need to work. We appreciate everyone will have different requirements and needs during this challenging time and feedback is always welcome to help us shape home learning for our children.

During the last lock down, we were told that videos from staff had a positive impact on well-being and mental health of children learning at home. It also provided motivation for children as they were hearing familiar voices delivering some learning. This helped children to understand that they were expected to learn in the same way at home as they do in school. We hope to send weekly phonic videos this lock down, as Year One have been trialling and at least one

other video from class staff. This is dependant on technology being reliable so please bear with us as we get to grips with this. We intend to share any videos with our Nursery and Reception children through Tapestry and with our Year One and Two children through our private YouTube channel with links coming via Parent Mail. Videos for the whole school, eg, our yoga videos will be shared through Parent Mail. Whilst

staff feelings about recording themselves are mixed they are happy to provide whatever supports our children and families. With this in mind, we ask that these videos remain on the private YouTube channel and are not shared on social media.

The BBC have also recently announced that they are providing support for home learning through CBBC for primary aged children. This will be every week day from 11th January 09:00 to 12:00.

The expectations on both schools and families this lock down are now different. You can expect from us home learning that directly reflects what is going on in the classroom at this time. In return, we expect that all families, where children are not in school, will engage with home learning on a daily basis. Class teachers will provide details of how to submit your child's home learning to them in each home learning pack, including the one for next week that was emailed to you this morning. It is expected that children of our age group will engage with three hours of home learning during each day for our Year One and Two children and less for our

Foundation Stage. For our age children this is best split up into much smaller chunks mixed in with breaks where they can rest. Please also remember that play is an essential way for our children to learn. Please keep in touch with staff about home learning and how this is going—your own mental health and well-being is a priority too.

### **Staff team**

For children in school, they remain in their class bubbles with most of their class staff. Teachers will be released from class for time to respond to communication from families and to speak to families, as needed. They will also be released from class for an additional session per week for home learning. Classes will be covered by class staff during this time.

### **Digital access request**

As lots of families are now back to balancing home learning with family and work life, we have sent out a survey to find out more about your access to technology. We would be grateful if you could complete this via Parent Mail as soon as possible and by 15th Jan.

### **Mobile Phones**

If you were fortunate enough to receive a new mobile phone for Christmas and

you have a change of number, please let the office know your new number.

### **January Reminders.....**

Thursday 21st Jan—New Year lunch

If you are having a clear out, please collect items for Bags2School. We will update you in the next newsletter about whether the date of 28th will go ahead.

### **Pupil Premium**

School may be entitled to additional 'Pupil Premium Funding' if parents are in receipt of Income Support; Income Based Job Seekers allowance etc. Applying is easy to do and your child will receive free milk daily in school from Year One onwards and free school jumpers each year. It may also mean that you get subsidised or even free access to activities in the future.

If you are in receipt of these benefits/credits would you please contact the school office by 14th January and complete the form to check eligibility.

### **Lunches**

Due to some delivery issues, whilst our menu contains the same meals for school lunches, they may be served on different days. If you need more information about this, please contact us.

***Your support for your child's education is crucial to their progress. Please let us know if there is any adjustments we need to make to help you support your child, for example: letters in large font; letters in different languages; wheelchair access; explaining things over the phone.***

Tel: 01751 472620      email: [admin@pickering--inf.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@pickering--inf.n-yorks.sch.uk)

For attendance/absences - [admin2@pickering-inf.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin2@pickering-inf.n-yorks.sch.uk)