



Yorke Mead School Newsletter



Friday 15th May 2020

This week at and away from Yorke Mead!

#YorkeMeadstilllearning

Lockdown learning still thriving!



Letters sent out this week

- ❖ Video learning links*
- ❖ Update on school re-opening 11th & 13th May

An updated list of video learning links has been sent out today with the newsletter. Look out for the Adventure of the Tshirt – aimed at giving your children a little message!

The re-opening of school

You will have read much in the news about the potential re-opening of the school, and in the letters that I have sent to you. Yesterday afternoon, I received the advice from HCC about how we ensure school re-opens safely, and we continue to receive advice from the government.

People will have their own views on the matter – for me, what matters is that whenever and however we re-open it is with the safety of the children and staff in mind. I still cannot give you precise details about how we will proceed; there is much to organise, but our return will be focused on everyone feeling safe and on feeling secure and comfortable. If this means we take longer to re-open, staggering the start, that is what we will do. We must get this right for the sake of everyone. I hope you all agree.

Please do not spend any money buying uniform if your child has grown – we will most likely have a relaxed uniform that the children feel comfortable in, and we certainly don't want you wasting money on new school shoes for half a term. Our first thoughts are red tops and comfortable shorts/bottoms with trainers.

Some of you will have seen the news with children sitting in squares, playing in isolation. We will be focusing on finding ways of working that are safe and allows for social distancing but with the focus on the social. Whilst school will be different, it will be a new normal that we will work with the children to understand.

As we move forwards, a key point for me is that each child needs to be able to return to the place in school they know best – their own classroom. We cannot do that without a stagger, so therefore it is important you are aware that school will not start for every child on the same day.

For now, the senior leaders will continue to work on the plans and I imagine we will have these with you towards the middle to the end of next week. We are certainly working hard to achieve this, and I would not want to tell you one thing and then have this changed by the ever changing guidance we are receiving.

Using VE Day

I hope you all enjoyed the VE Day celebrations – if you watched any of the TV coverage you will realise that our war –time generation were so incredibly resilient. We can only admire them. For me, it was the Katherine Jenkins/ BBC rendition of 'We'll Meet Again', that will stick in my mind. Perhaps the words have an extra special meaning at the moment. If you missed it, take a moment over a cup of tea to enjoy it – it really is something very special. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKSc8BLXAJ8>

If you didn't see my Tweet, I would love to have pictures of the way you celebrated the day, any bunting the children made etc. We really must change the board in the dining room that still has the words 'Autumn' on it – and VE day seems a perfect replacement. Please email any pictures of you celebrating, the work you did etc to admin@yorkemead.herts.sch.uk and we will print some of them out to share. Thank you

Reception Places at Yorke Mead

There is a much smaller birth rate in the local area this year, and this means that there is a surplus of school places. If you know anyone who lives locally please tell them about our school if they are looking for a school place. Many people automatically believe they will not be able to get into a Croxley school and therefore do not look into it. We have places at Yorke Mead – please tell your friends.

More video learning

I hope that you enjoyed our T-shirt adventure, you can still find it at https://youtu.be/H1H_LG8YnL4. There are more additions to the list of video stories and even a dance activity to enjoy this week. In addition Rev Jon Bishop has shared some of his assemblies with us too. Please see the updated list sent out with this newsletter. I think I had better get my teddies ready for another one soon – though I confess I much prefer talking face to face!

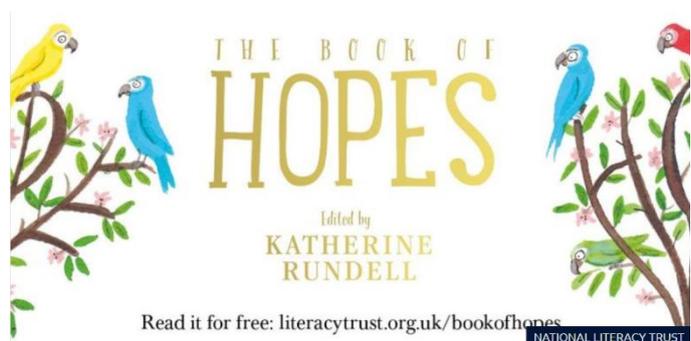
Using Core Breathing

At school your children will use core breathing throughout the day – when they come in from play, before they start something new and challenging and if they are feeling upset. Now that the teachers have found their way around videoing and sharing these on with you, Miss Richards has recorded the script we would use with the children in school. You may well find that everyone in your family benefits from taking a short break to practise core breathing; your children will definitely benefit. Remind them that this time and space should be respected for everyone and it will always work best if everyone in the room is taking part in the process. The link to this is: <https://youtu.be/Tvuhdsy5UIM>



The Book of Hope

In these difficult times, wonderful things happen. This week my gem is the news of a free book, written by 110 famous authors, who have come together virtually to produce this special book. The stories in the book are each intended to bring children a little bit of happiness and hope – so important at this time. You can read the book online at <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/> Definitely worth taking a look.



Lucille Pollard
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