



NEWSLETTER No.24

Friday 5th June 2020

[OUR VISION: 'Life in all its fullness'](#)

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have some more children back in our socially distanced midst. What a relief! We are but pale imitations of ourselves without the children- just bland, two dimensional creatures without purpose or direction. They have brought us back to life with their colour and their individuality. The transition back, both in terms of organisation and emotion, has been smoother than expected but we are under no illusion just what a challenge this will be for some and are ready to respond appropriately.

Of course one saving grace of the virus situation (among so many negatives) has been that sense that we are all in this thing together and the compassion and sense of community that have flourished as a result. That fact that some of us are back in school and others not, has the potential to undermine some of this 'team work'- this for staff and parents and pupils alike. Certainly there is a danger that those children remaining at home feel a little 'cut adrift'. We must all continue to show understanding of each other's situations and appreciation of each other's contributions. We will do our best to provide home with resources, links and suggestions concerning the recovery side of the curriculum on the website as well as providing as rich an offer of maths and English as we can muster. We have also maintained an online staff team who aim to adapt our home learning offer (see online learning below).

For the children's benefit, we are doing our level best to work on a curriculum that finds a balance between the 5 overarching and connected principles or themes, mentioned in our recent letter to you:

1. Reconnection - including a focus on talk and social interaction; to rebuild relationships and trust and support any attachment anxieties children may feel. This could and should be informal, fun and draw upon strategies like P4C and 'Stories for Healing.'
2. Feeling - including a focus on emotional literacy and mental wellbeing; to rebuild confidence

and deal with trauma. This could draw upon strategies like mindfulness and include encouraging children to express themselves through the arts.

3. Child-centred - including attending to and valuing the experiences and learning of individuals, drawing on their strengths. This could include parts of the curriculum being driven by children's interests and expertise.

4. Stability - including trying to provide structure and 'normality.'

5. Responsiveness - ensuring staff work flexibly and stay responsive to need. This is intrinsic to our vision but staff are receiving training in some of the difficulties children may encounter and how best to respond to them.

Here are some of the things children have been getting up to in school this week (see also write ups from our different pods further along in this newsletter): explored their feelings through art; through circle time and Philosophy for Children; enjoyed the Cheltenham Science Festival online; talked a lot, played a lot and been given plenty of autonomy; written a letter of advice to their younger selves; explored, climbed trees, dug and planted; told stories, read stories, written stories; done yoga and talked some more.



If you are interested in reading more about what is being termed a 'recovery curriculum,' see [here](#) a link to an impassioned article from Barry Carpenter of Oxford Brookes University.

With warm wishes for a good weekend ahead,

Nick Moss
Headteacher

**** NEWS & INFO ****

YEAR 6 LEAVERS' MUSIC VIDEO

The alternative to our 'Leaver's Evening' for Year 6 looks to be heading in the direction of an extended music video. With the talented and intuitive Mr Bradshaw now on board, anything is possible.

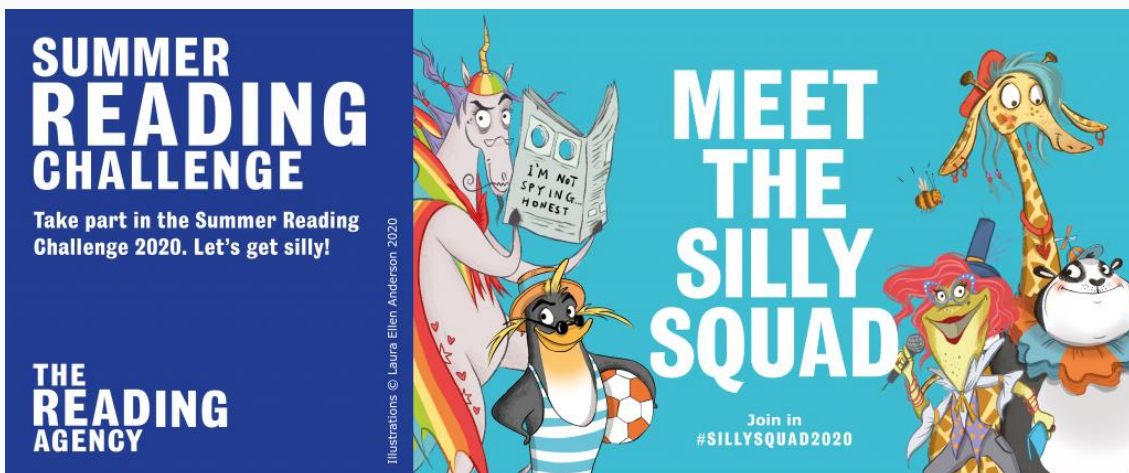
SUMMER READING CHALLENGE LAUNCHES at 4pm TODAY!

The Summer 2020 Reading Challenge starts today, with a full range of launch activities! For a full itinerary, click through to the [Reading Agency website page](#). The launch party starts at 4pm today, with Sam & Mark from CBBC introducing the Silly Squad, and continues until 7pm with other well-known personalities including David Baddiel, Konnie Huq, Ben Fogle, Owen Teale and not forgetting Hacker T Dog. To join this year's reading challenge, click through to the [Summer Reading Challenge Website](#).

Once signed up you will get to choose a character and take part in reading challenges. As you complete new challenges you unlock new characters. On the website there are lots of encouraging activities for enthusiastic and more reluctant readers alike, including: Find a read, Book Sorter, Reading Club, Chat, Activites, News and Games.

Happy Reading!!

#SquadGoals



NEW ONLINE SCHOOL LUNCHES ORDER FORM FOR RECEPTION & YR 1 CHILDREN

Yesterday we e-mailed all Parents/Carers with child(ren) back in school in Reception & Year 1, to introduce a new weekly online ordering system for Reception & Year 1 lunches. For lunches as of Monday 8th June, we'd be very grateful if you could fill in this quick online form in advance for your child (or one form for each if you have more than one child in these year groups).

Please click [here](#) to fill out the online form, and submit by Sunday 7th June latest, ready for the week ahead. Please let us know which days you will be sending in a packed lunch and which days you'd like a universal free school lunch ordered for your child(ren). If you are opting to order your child a universal free school meal on any day(s), you can indicate if they would like to choose a ham, cheese or tuna (no mayo) baguette, which will be delivered to them along with a piece of cake or flapjack, a piece of fruit and some vegetable crudites. *With sincere thanks for your co-operation at this time, School Office*

VIRTUAL SPORTS DAY - HELP NEEDED

In keeping with our growing 'virtualness,' we are keen to explore a Virtual Sports Day. This would be similar to the Virtual Music Soiree and would entail people at home sending in videos to be collated centrally. We would be applying a highly flexible definition for what constitutes a sports video; it would be an opportunity to be creative and perhaps could start with a family discussion about what is sport and why it is important. However before we commit, I am putting out a request for anyone who might be willing and able to do the collating. Please get in touch if you think you might be able to help us out.

HOME LEARNING : ONLINE LEARNING LATEST UPDATE

Updated Home Learning information was posted onto the school website at the start of the week. Please click [here](#) to access it.

If you are not able to access the website or locate the resources for your child(ren), please contact the school office via **01453 883273** or call admin@minchschoo.net and we will be able to help you access the information.

Message from Mr Moss:

While staff involvement on Padlet and Tapestry will inevitably have to be scaled down, given they are now also juggling in school commitments, we are looking to ensure pupils at home now get more direct contact with their teachers through the use of Google Classroom; this coordinated by the online learning team - comprising of Mr Ricketts, Ms McCarron and Mrs Jackson.

For children to access this new platform, they will need their own school e-mail address. These are presently being set up. At the beginning of next week we will write to you detailing the how of this and asking for your permission. We will then host daily assemblies, designed primarily to help us catch up with pupils but which will also give everyone, pupils and adults alike, the chance to try out the new platform. Tutorials have been made that will show you how to join your online classroom and how to use the 'in call' video chat settings and options on the Google Meet App. These tutorials will be available on all class padlets and Tapestry and will hopefully address some of the technical difficulties you could experience.

Reception and Year 1 children will be invited to a storytime session on Google Meet once per week. There will also be some communication regarding Phonics, English and maths on Tapestry.

Pupils in years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will find maths teaching videos on Padlet. These will focus on maths problem solving (all found on the Problem Solving PowerPoints, shared on the school website for term 6). We will start with maths because it is the subject that perhaps needs the most consistent instruction. We have chosen to focus on problem solving because there are already perfectly adequate teaching videos about 'number' on BBC Bitesize and Can Do maths. Once they have had a chance to have a go at a problem, all pupils will receive an invitation to four 'drop in sessions' at allotted time slots through the week. The purpose of these meetings will be to discuss any misconceptions and up to 15 pupils only will be able to attend at any one time- this to ensure they are effective. However if every pupil could aim to attend at least one 'drop in' or assembly session each week, then we will get to see most of them weekly. We will try to stagger these across the year groups so that siblings in different years don't need the computer at the same time!

We will have a range of staff that are on hand to host these daily drop in sessions each week. See timetable below:

Classes	Monday Teachers	Tuesday Teachers	Wednesday Teachers	Thursday Teachers	Friday Teachers
Rec, Y1	Tapestry as normal + 1 online assembly session per week				
Y2	Mrs Jackson	Mrs Jackson	Mrs Jackson	Mrs Jackson	PLANNING AND SCHOOL CLEANING
Y3, Y4	Ms McCarron	Ms McCarron	Ms McCarron	Ms McCarron	
Y5, Y6	Mr Ricketts	Mr Ricketts	Mrs Aldridge	Mr Weinberger	

For the sake of safeguarding (and there will be more to follow with reference to safeguarding), we will be asking that you are present whilst your child participates in the video sessions. However please do try to remain, as far as is possible, an observer as opposed to a participant. As their parent and the coordinator of their home learning, you will inevitably have questions for us. However, for the sake of keeping these online google classroom sessions flowing and child centred, please use the class email systems to ask these.

We would like to reiterate that of course you should continue to approach home learning in whatever ways work best for your family and to be reassured that platforms like Google Classroom, Google Meet, Tapestry and Padlet remain optional. We will be in touch soon with your child's email details as well as safety guidance and times for the initial assemblies.

****** REMINDERS ******

LIBRARY BOOKS

KEEP BORROWING, KEEP READING! If you would like to borrow books from the School for your child - please e-mail requests to a new library email library@minchscool.net or to your class e-mail. In the e-mail please include any information you think would be useful in helping us choose the right books for your child. This could include books, authors and genres your child has loved, and those they haven't! Once we have chosen your books, you will receive an e-mail with a time slot at which you can collect them. All slots will be on Mondays. Books will be labelled with your child's surname and made available for collection at your allotted time from the marked table at the School's front entrance. You will not need to enter the building or inform anyone of your presence. Books not collected will only be made available at the same time the following week. To return these books **and/or any taken before school closed**, please put them in a bag labelled with your child's surname and class, then place them in the box marked 'Returns' at the front entrance. On your note please indicate whether the book(s) were from the school library or belong to a class/teacher. *Thank you, Mrs Webb*

MORE PHOTOS WANTED FOR SCHOOL LIBRARY READING-AT-HOME GALLERY!

Thank you for all the lovely photos that you have sent in, of precious moments at home recently delving into a book, with wendy houses, hammocks, ducklings and cosy blankets all featuring in the reading fun! The gallery is now taking shape in the school library - we hope you enjoy this little preview below! It's not too late to get involved - see below for details.



We hope that many of you, wherever possible, are still enjoying reading at home together each day. We are now getting the new gallery ready for the school library and we are still asking for your snaps! It would be great to have more images of you, with your parents/carers, siblings and maybe even a pet or cuddly friend too, getting cosy for some reading together whilst at home. Perhaps you could pick a strange or unexpected place in your home or garden to be snapped being bookworms together, or even get dressed up in a funny costume. Please send your snaps through to admin@minchscool.net. *Many thanks & happy reading!*

KS2 VIRTUAL MUSIC SOIREE - SHORT INSTRUMENTAL VIDEOS WANTED

In place of our Musical Soiree this Summer, we would like to put together a collection of short instrumental videos. Therefore, if your child receives instrumental lessons and you would like to send in one phone

video recording of him/her performing one piece that is up to 2 minutes long, please email it to the School Office admin@minchschoo.net by Monday 8th June latest. Please include the first name of your child and title of the piece of music. This gives you a few weeks to choose and rehearse a piece. Please ensure that the parent/carer sends in the clip to school, as by doing so you are consenting to the performance being shared and possibly placed on the school website. Names of participants will not be shown, although Mrs Young will put together a running list/programme, showing the child's first name and music title, which will be emailed out to participants only. Sorry, only for KS2 and no vocal performances on this occasion. *With thanks, Mrs Young*

NURSERY NEWS

The Nursery children returned to school this week amid a floating sea of bubbles!!

They settled giggling and chatting into their three groups and are now known as the **Acorns**, **Berries** and **Conkers**. We have had a very busy and fun filled week full of lots of joy and laughter.



What have we been up to? We have played with cars and small world with tubes and guttering; we have been gardeners digging in the raised bed; we have had tea parties; we have laid on our backs cloud watching; we have drawn chalk pictures; we have made models with mobilo, sticklebricks and duplo; we have played with dinosaurs and made them homes using natural materials; we have used glue and craft materials; we have painted with watercolours; we have been singing and dancing; we have listened to stories; we have made up our own stories; we have talked to each other; we have used our imaginations; we have been counting; we have had walks on the Common but most of all we have enjoyed being back together again. As Alice commented *“I liked being with my friends because I’ve missed them”*. Thank you children and team for a truly wonderful week. *Mrs Watt, Mrs Hobbs & Mrs Errington*

RECEPTION & YEAR 1 NEWS



HORSE CHESTNUT POD

We have had a lovely two days settling in. We have enjoyed listening to stories. Each day we use our feelings cards to discuss different feelings and share our thoughts. We have played lots of games outside with our hoops. We have played with our small world play and charked inside our hoops.

"Mrs Bugg listened to our stories as we played with our small world toys."

We have thrown and rolled our hoops and used them as markers for races spaced out across one of the field pitches. We have had music outside for exercises and dancing. We are learning a dance. Minibeasts are one of our interests so we are learning the Minibeast song and look forward to looking for minibeasts when it's our turn to have the wildlife area as our outside learning space. Painting was fun. We enjoyed sharing our paintings with others. ***From Mrs Bugg & Ms Richings***

BEECH POD

In our little group we have spent the last couple of days getting to know each other and getting used to learning together in our new pod. The children have been very creative with the small amount of Lego they had, making some really lovely models. They also had lots of fun chalking in their little circle.

From Mrs Bailey, Mrs Morgan & Mrs Owen



SILVER BIRCH POD

We have had a fabulous first week back. Each day has started with a PE session with Joe Wicks keeping us all fit and healthy. In the classroom we all have our own desk space and equipment with our name on it, but most of our days have been spent outside in our designated zone. We were really really lucky to have

the area by the trees and so we have been tree climbing, den building and even had the chance to plant some seeds in the raised bed. We have also been doing yoga every day with Mrs McLaughlin which has been fantastic, especially barefoot on the grass. Even though we are finding keeping 2 metres apart quite difficult to remember, we have all been trying really hard. Next week our designated zone is the wildlife area so we are all very much looking forward to that. *Mrs Saeed, Mrs Chard, Miss Dangerfield & Mrs McLaughlin*



HAWTHORN POD

Miss Gittins has really enjoyed her week with Hawthorn. The children are delightful and came to school well prepared by their parents. Our first zone (to use at lunchtime and for learning) was the wildlife area, so we had great fun eating lunch in amongst all that greenery and playing within the three structures there. One afternoon, we pretended that we were pirates and the children were given trowels in order to bury their treasure. We buried some treasure in the wildlife area and some in the sand pit, with an 'x marks the spot' over the top of the secret patch so that we could find it again. Unsurprisingly, some of these children were just far too good at digging and hiding treasure... so the treasure is still out there, somewhere in the school grounds! Another afternoon saw us painting two pictures, using only two colours of paint. All ten children proved that their imaginations were marvellous! The children have also impressed me with their cutting and sticking skills and when we have written and used a number line. *Miss Gittins & Mrs Playne*

MONKEY PUZZLE POD

We enjoyed coming in and seeing our friends. We got our own desk, which we really liked. We loved going outside and jumping on the tyres and we liked skipping games. We made up a name for our pod and talked about our lockdown. We have voted on what we would like to do in future, including no hands foot beach ball. *Mrs Wilson & Mrs Bays*



OAK POD

When the children in Oak Pod were asked what they would like to put in the newsletter, the first thing they said was that they are washing their hands at least 10 times a day! That was quickly followed by saying that what they enjoyed doing most was eating their lunch! Picnics in the tent or on the grass have been fun. In between eating and drinking, the children have enjoyed playing Bingo in maths and they have counted along a number line. They liked listening to relaxing music while cutting and sticking and we listened to “positive” music while playing with our small world toys and chatting loudly across the tables! We have had lots of stories and listened to poems too. We have practiced our handwriting and spelt tricky words as well as doing some writing. On Thursday afternoon we drew on our clipboards outside and then painted with water colours back in the classroom. The children hadn’t used water colours before and are looking forward to doing it again next week. Most of all the children said “We have enjoyed seeing our friends.”

Mrs Hugginson & Mrs Dawks

YEAR 6 NEWS

COBALT POD

Miss Smith & Mrs Aldridge

Cobalt Week One - Back in the Portakabin!

We were all really excited to be coming back to school because we were looking forward to seeing our friends and socialising again. We have had lots of fun this week. We have played lots of socially distanced games like 21 and Splat! And had a bit of boy/girl competitive fun. We have had a chance to learn about Jon Burgerman, who is a famous artist, born in UK now living in NYC, known for his doodles! We have

mindfully coloured in and then designed some of our own. We have started planning our Leavers music video/film and are really excited to be working with Mr Bradshaw in the future to hopefully design and make something really special. Watch this space! We have also been tuning in to Cheltenham Science Festival each day and have seen many exciting experiments about colour, sweets and planets!

By Cobalt Y6's



TURQUOISE POD

Mr Weinberger & Miss Tonner

Our first week back has been really fun. We have spent quite a lot of time outside just being together and getting used to being back in school. Our teachers have kept us busy too with lots of activities from watching John Burgerman drawing to doodling our own characters to playing shadow tag on the field. Mr Weinberger has read us a few books about dealing with our feelings and emotions which we found really helpful as we've been able to talk about how we've all felt during this strange lockdown period. One of the best things we've done this week is being able to express our emotions through art. We were all asked to draw a line to represent the emotion and then create an abstract picture from that line showing the emotions we all felt during lockdown. Some of us were nervous about coming back; we didn't know what to expect. Would we see our friends? Would we be in our classrooms? Once we walked through the school gates and saw our teachers and classmates we realised that we'd be alright. We've loved being back together and we're looking forward to our last term in Y6 at Minchinhampton Academy. **By**

Turquoise Y6's

'SUPERHEROES'

By Tess

Did you see it going past?
Lights a blaring, sirens blast,
Super heroes work within,
To save somebody else's kin,
Working through the day and night,
Speeding through the traffic light,
Going out to save the life
Of someone's daughter, someone's wife,

Stay home stay safe,

To help the heroes in the van
To do the best work that they can,
It's the least you can do
To help the heroes see it through
For all the brilliant work they've done
To save someone's brother, father, son.
To the superheroes in the van,
Doing the best work that they can,

Thankyou.

Superheroes wear a cape?
And they help you to escape-
From baddies big and strong?
That is where you've got it wrong
No, they help you to escape,
From your ever nearing fate,
They aren't extremely big or tall
Superheroes wearing scrubs
Are the very best kind of all.

You see superheroes don't wear capes,
All though they help you to escape
Not from heroes big and strong

That's wear you to have got it wrong
No they help you to escape
From your ever nearing fate
They aren't extremely big and tall
Superheroes wearing scrubs
Are the best kind of them all.

SKY POD

Mr Ricketts & Miss Tonner

Only half the class has come back to school but we are lucky because we are all with our friends within our pod. Everyone has been eased in for the first few days and we have all been making the most of the warm weather. We have been playing socially distanced games such as splat and shadow tag. In our teaching zone (outdoor classroom) we have been honoured with the school sandpit where we have been burying ourselves and playing long jump. In lessons we have been doing maths workouts and in art we have been doodling and creating our own characters. Due to social distancing measures we can't do a leavers assembly so we have decided to make a music video of our school lives. We have also been making signs for our outdoor classroom (Sky Kingdom) which we are going to laminate to go outside. **By**

Chloe

LETTERS

The PTA has sent out letters this week to all parents/carers about the School Lottery.
Yr 1 / Rec parents/carers were sent a letter by Mr Moss. You can read them [here](#).

Yr 1 / Rec parents/carers were also sent an e-mail yesterday about the [new school lunches order form](#). Please submit your order by Sunday 7th March. Thank you.

**WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED READING THIS NEWSLETTER
VERY BEST WISHES FROM ALL AT MINCHINHAMPTON C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY**

LATEST GOVERNMENT UPDATE FOR PARENTS/CARERS

What parents and carers need to know about schools and other educational settings has been updated and now includes the following information:

- confirmation that the government's five tests have now been met
- a link to the [Safer Travel information](#)
- advice on whether or not children can repeat a year because of COVID (the DFE says that they do not anticipate the children and young people will need to repeat a school year because of COVID)
- requirements for education at home for pupils not eligible to be in school
- a list of high quality [online educational resources](#) which have been assessed with the support of some of the country's leading educational experts to help pupils to learn at home
- guidance for parents on [supporting your children's education during coronavirus outbreak](#)
- an online resource from [Oak National Academy](#) with daily lessons available to both primary and secondary pupils (your child's teacher is best placed to advise you regarding whether to use the academy alongside their existing offer) and enhanced education provision from the [BBC, including daily lessons](#)
- clarification that pupils at home should be in regular contact with schools about what learning they are expected to undertake, so that they take full advantage of the offer they are directed to
- other useful links to complement support and advice provided by schools and teachers
- updated links for parents in supporting their children in keeping safe online (see box below)

[Implementing Protective Measures in Education](#) has been updated and now includes added information in the additional questions about testing, details of national test and trace and procedures around any person who is showing signs of COVID being sent home, told to isolate for 7 days and get tested. **They can use the [NHS test link](#) to arrange this or call on **NHS 119**.**

[EYFS](#) and [Actions for EYFS settings during COVID](#) have also been updated, with information with schools with Nurseries.

[Where can I go to get support to help keep my child safe online?](#)

Here are some useful links to help you keep children safe online:

- government guidance on [keeping children safe from online harms](#) such as child sexual exploitation, cyberbullying and harmful content
- government guidance on [staying safe online](#) including parental controls, fact-checking information, communicating with family and friends while social distancing is in place and taking regular breaks from the screen
- [Thinkuknow](#) is the education programme from the National Crime Agency (NCA) providing age-appropriate resources for children and support for parents
- [Parent Info](#) is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations
- [Childnet](#) provides a tool kit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support
- [Internet Matters](#) provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- [LGfL](#) provides support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including 6 top tips to keep primary aged children safe online
- [Net Aware](#) provides support for parents and carers from the NSPCC and O2, providing a guide to social networks, apps and games
- [Let's Talk About It](#) provides support for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) provides tips, advice, guides and resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services

Age-appropriate practical support on reporting concerns is available from:

- [Childline](#) - for support
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content
- [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse

EMOTIONAL HEALTH & WELLBEING MATERIALS

PLACE 2 BE

[Wellbeing Activity Ideas for Families](#)

[Wellbeing Activity Ideas for Schools](#)

Mental Health Resources for Schools

ANNA FREUD NATIONAL CENTRE FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Supporting young people's mental health during periods of disruption

MENTALLY HEALTHY SCHOOLS

CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE

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