



## NEWSLETTER No.26

*Friday 3rd July 2020*

**OUR VISION: 'Life in all its fullness'**

---

Dear Parents/Carers,

The thought that our year is sliding to an end is a faintly ludicrous thought. It's another 'check yourself mid-sentence' moment; another ask yourself again, 'How has it come to this?' It is all, certainly, rather strange.

In some ways our lives in school (and certainly mine) have not been hugely altered. Our day jobs involve a fair amount of organisation; of coordinating the movement and placing of large numbers of young people in as safe and happy a way as we can muster: this then has been a variation on that theme, albeit a rather complicated variation. In most other ways though all our lives have been flipped upside down; not all in a negative direction but enough to cause us all discombobulation. I think we underestimate the fatigue and emotional strain a change in routine can cause and this was one heck of a change. As things start to look and feel more normal than they did, we must stay very mindful of those for whom the virus has had far more life altering or tragic consequences.

From the start we have been keen at school to explore/ encourage any opportunities that the situation presented and this remains our mindset. We know there have been lessons to be learnt from the experiences we have had in school and we want to hang onto the best of them. A revitalised focus on the emotional wellbeing of our children would be a positive outcome as would a curriculum with enough heart and breathing space that it better empowers a love of learning. I refer you here to John O'Donahue, 'Sometimes the so-called 'facts of a situation' actually tell us little or nothing about the heart of an

experience...If we were to describe our life strictly in terms of its factual truth, most of its interesting, complex and surprising dimensions would remain unmentioned.'

Miss Tonner and I have been gradually adjusting the Covid risk assessment on the website for the purposes of the final week. I will put the latest version on the website this weekend and promise for it to be in its final form by next Friday. We will also send information out in a more palatable form early next week, including an FAQ. Now that the government guidance has arrived for the Autumn, we are also in a position to start planning for this next stage. I was especially grateful for nuggets of wisdom like this one, '..planning should be informed by an assessment of pupils' starting points and addressing the gaps in their knowledge and skills.' Now I understand how this teaching thing works. One aspect which was mooted a while back was 'class sized bubbles' who would need to keep as separate from each other as possible and sure enough, this is now in the guidance.

Anyway onward and upward - and enjoy the weekend.

With very best wishes,

**Nick Moss**

Headteacher

---

\*\*\*\* NEWS & INFO \*\*\*\*

---

### ***NEW TERM NEW MENU***

The new menu for Autumn Term 1 2020 is now available. Please see [here](#) on the school website to see it.

---

### ***CLUBS UPDATE***

Please note that in Autumn Term 1 (Weds 2nd Sept – Weds 21st Oct 2020) there will be not be any 3.15-4.15pm after-school clubs running. We will revisit this during the half term to see what we can then offer, if any, up to Christmas. Regards what we are going to be able to offer for before and after school care (Breakfast and Fun Club), we are currently looking at logistics in light of Covid-19 for that and will be in touch soon with a further update. *With sincere thanks for your understanding and patience regards this*

---

## **SCHOOL BOOKS RETURN REQUEST**

Please could we ask all parents/carers and children to have a good sort through at home to make sure any books belonging to the school that might still be at home are returned by Thursday 16th July. These might include library books, reading books, class books etc. There will be a box for these to be returned at each class/pod classroom back door as of Monday. It's important that we get as many school books back as possible before the holidays. *With sincere thanks for your help with this.*

---

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

It is expected that all children will be in school uniform as of September. A new clean change of clothes will be required daily. There will be a PTA second-hand uniform sale on Friday 10th July from 9.00am-4.00pm. If you'd like to donate some uniform please look for the box outside the school office entrance. The PTA are very grateful for your good quality donations. Please help to run the sale in as safe a way as possible; the sale will run at the front entrance close to the school office. We will try to space things apart as much as possible to allow distancing. Please keep 2m apart and leave the school site as soon as you have purchased your items. Please bring correct change with you and pop donations into the honesty box to minimise money handling. There is a suggested donation of at least 50p per item. Please give generously to help raise funds for our school. The PTA hope to be able to run a more 'normal' sale in September as usual. If you would like to purchase school uniform from Batemans Sports, you can do so online by clicking [here](#) or by calling the shop on 01453 764320 to arrange an individual drop-in appointment.

---

## **LIBRARY**

### **Book Returns and Borrowing**

It's been brilliant that lots of you have been reading so much over the past few months, with many books taken from the library before we closed and more borrowed since. If you still have library books you have finished with, please could you return them to school as soon as possible (particularly Yr 6!), using the box outside the door at the main entrance. Please don't hesitate to contact us via [library@minchscool.net](mailto:library@minchscool.net) if you want to borrow some more books! *Thank you, Mrs Webb*

### **Summer Reading challenge - let's get silly at home!**

Don't forget to join this year's Summer Reading challenge! Join the Silly squad and discover awesome books to read! You can play games, earn points and unlock badges throughout the challenge! Click on [this link](#) to find out more!

---

## **MINCH 2019 LEAVER'S WRITING PUBLISHED ON KINDLE**

We were delighted to learn that Bretta, one of last year's Year 6 Leavers, has written a short story and it is available to buy now on Kindle for 77p! Pretty cool for a 12 year old! Follow the link [here](#) for more information.

### **HOME LEARNING: LATEST UPDATE**

**New English 'Talk for Writing' units have been posted on the [school website Home Learning](#) pages this week.** Please click through to the relevant English unit for your child(ren):

- [Reception - Rainy Day Rabbit](#)
- [Year 1 - Bob, the Bubble Who Wanted to be Useful](#)
- [Year 2- The Quangle Wangle's Hat](#)
- [Year 3 - Unicorns Uncovered](#)
- [Year 4 - Goblinology; the Ultimate Guide to Goblins](#)
- [Year 5 - The Ultimate Guide to Elves and Sprites](#)
- [Year 6 - Treasure](#)

**Some new Can Do Maths Workouts have also been posted** - please follow the links below for your child(ren)'s year group:

- [Year 1](#)
- [Year 2](#)
- [Year 3/4](#)
- [Year 3/4 \(Fractions Units\)](#)
- [Year 5/6](#)

**Click [here](#)** for some Magical Maths Tricks by Kjartan Poskitt

**Click [here](#)** for Gloucestershire School Games Photography Competition

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](mailto:admin@minchschoo.net) and we will be able to help you access the information.

## \*\*\*\* REMINDERS \*\*\*\*

### ***SCHOOL LUNCHES ONLINE FORM FOR RECEPTION & YR 1 CHILDREN***

Thank you very much to Reception & Year 1 parents/carers for using this new online ordering system. **Please click [here](#) to fill out the online form 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 school lunch ordered for your child(ren). The choices are 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*

### **RECEPTION & YEAR 1 NEWS**

#### ***HORSE CHESTNUT POD***

We have had a fabulous time dancing on our festival stage with our flags. Every afternoon we share different picture books and have a discussion. We have particularly enjoyed *The Extraordinary Gardener* and it has inspired some beautiful artwork. We have worked hard on our maths. We have been ordering numbers to 20 and recording addition and subtraction facts. In outside learning area we have had the tyres to play on. We worked together to make sure there was only one person on the tyres at a time. The lava monster has enjoyed playing with us. We were safe on the tyres while the red hairy lava monster swam below us. The red hairy lava monster lives deep underground. *From Mrs Bugg, Mrs Shipton & Ms Richings*



---

## **BEECH POD**

Beech Tree Pod have planted Sunflowers. We have watered them and put them in the sunshine. We were very excited when the plants started growing. *From Mrs Bailey, Mrs Morgan & Mrs Owen*



---

## **SILVER BIRCH POD**

This week we have been rumbling in the jungle, having lots of adventures. We have been writing stories and lists and the year ones wrote jungle animal riddles for the reception children to solve. Our jungle animal collages were fun to make. We also experimented with watercolour pencils and really enjoyed the effects it made. We also made a barefoot trail using grass cuttings, bark, old leaves, sticks, beech nuts, cherries and water.







Mr Ricketts taught us a hilarious game called Drip Drip Drop (a socially distant water game a bit like Duck Duck Goose but much more fun). Silver Birch Survivors released and performed their debut single "Coronavirus". *From Mrs Saeed, Mrs Chard, Miss Dangerfield & Mrs McLaughlin*

---

### **HAWTHORN POD**

Another busy week in Hawthorn! We have been on the reception playground again this week which has meant building challenges! We have engaged in the tallest building competition and have been using construction thinking skills at lunchtime too. Also, we have ridden scooters, finger painted, chalked, moulded blu tack, played human guess who, started a booklet about a pirate, read and have been developing our knowledge of multiplication in maths. I think we will all sleep well this weekend! *From Miss Gittins & Mrs Playne*





---

### **MONKEY PUZZLE POD**

After sinking the pirate ships we made last week, Monkey Puzzle had another frenetic week which culminated in all of our crew learning to crochet. We have now made our own pirate rigging, which we can wear as friendship bracelets. We have also designed our own pirate code as we considered how difficult it was to share a ship with so many people all the time and learned some relaxing breathing techniques to calm us when we need it. We have had fun learning to make groups and arrays to multiply in maths and immersed ourselves in pirate adventure stories. *From Mrs Wilson & Mrs Bays*

---

### **OAK POD**

Oak pod has been a hive of excited activity again this week! The children have made pirate flags and waved them enthusiastically, made counting strip worms to help them count in 2s, made Mr Grasshead characters and created jars of hope. As usual they have enjoyed running wild around the wildlife area and also had moments of quiet when we have done mindfulness. We have continued to work on letter and number formation and tried to make our writing smaller and we have started to write our very own pirate story books! On Thursday we had a fire and toasted marshmallows. We also did some hapezome too. *Mrs Hugginson & Mrs Dawks*







## ORANGE & YELLOW PODS

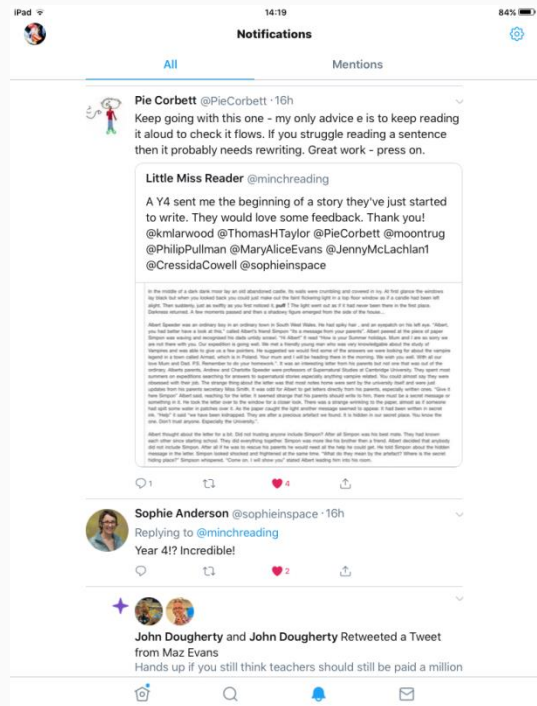
The children have been making some Natural Mandala designs. They have also been busy making videos to promote their wizard schools. On Monday when it was really windy, they also made and flew kites.





## HOME LEARNING NEWS

**Sapphire Class** have been busy working away on their art using zentangles. I have been extremely impressed with the writing that has been sent to me. One particular story opening ended on a fantastic cliffhanger; I want to be able to read the rest of the story when it is written. You can read the story below. A few famous authors were also impressed with the writing. See the photos below for their comments. I can't wait to see you all in a few weeks time; you have been missed! *From Miss Tonner*



*In the middle of a dark dank moor lay an old abandoned castle. Its walls were crumbling and covered in ivy. At first glance the windows lay black but when you looked back you could just make out the faint flickering light in a top floor window as if a candle had been left alight. Then suddenly, just as swiftly as you first noticed it, puff ! The light went out as if it had never been there in the first place. Darkness returned. A few moments passed and then a shadowy figure emerged from the side of the house...*

*Albert Speeder was an ordinary boy in an ordinary town in South West Wales. He had spiky hair , and an eyepatch on his left eye. "Albert, you had better have a look at this." called Albert's friend Simpon "Its a message from your parents". Albert peered at the piece of paper Simpon was waving and recognised his dads untidy scrawl. "Hi Albert" It read "How is your Summer holidays. Mum and I are so sorry we are not there with you. Our expedition is going well. We met a friendly young man who was very knowledgable about the study of Vampires and was able to give us a few pointers. He suggested we would find some of the answers we were looking for about the vampire legend in a town called Armad, which is in Poland. Your mum and I will be heading there in the morning. We wish you well. With all our love Mum and Dad. P.S. Remember to do your homework.". It was an interesting letter from his parents but not one that was out of the ordinary. Alberts parents, Andrew and Charlotte Speeder were professors of Supernatural Studies at Cambridge University. They spent most summers on expeditions searching for answers to supernatural stories especially anything vampire related. You could almost say they were obsessed with their job. The strange thing about the letter was that most notes home were sent by the university itself and were just updates from his parents secretary Miss Smith. It was odd for Albert to get letters directly from his parents, especially written ones. "Give it here Simpon" Albert said, reaching for the letter. It seemed strange that his parents should write to him, there must be a secret message or something in it. He took the letter over to the window for a closer look. There was a strange wrinkling to the paper, almost as if someone had spilt some water in patches over it. As the paper caught the light another message seemed to appear. It had been written in secret ink. "Help" it said "we have been kidnapped. They are after a precious artefact we found. It is hidden in our secret place. You know the one. Don't trust anyone. Especially the University."*

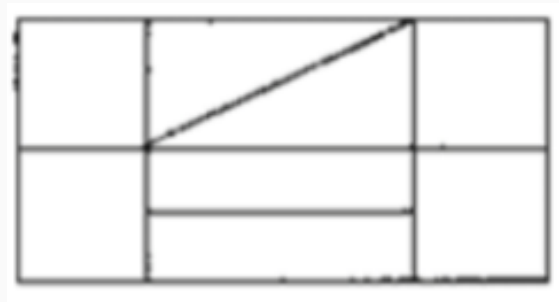
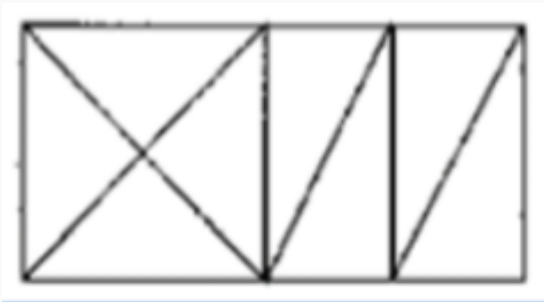
*Albert thought about the letter for a bit. Did not trusting anyone include Simpon? After all Simpon was his best mate. They had known each other since starting school. They did everything together. Simpon was more like his brother then a friend. Albert decided that anybody did not include Simpon. After all if he was to rescue his parents he would need all the help he could get. He told Simpon about the hidden message in the letter. Simpon looked shocked and frightened at the same time. "What do they mean by the artefact? Where is the secret hiding place?" Simpson whispered. "Come on. I will show you" stated Albert leading him into his room.*

**By Arthur Y4 Sapphire**

---



**Year 3/4** Over the last couple of weeks, Year 3/4 have enjoyed an assembly on Black Lives Matter where they again impressed with their thoughtful and empathetic responses. Darcy created this poster. Our P4C jumping off point for discussion was "How might 'judging a book by its cover' lead to injustice?" Maths drop-ins have been great for ironing out misconceptions and going over tricky fractions work. **These have been our favourite problem solving challenges this week. See how you do! Have these two shapes been cut into 8 equal parts? And...my personal favourite because it involves a chocolate doughnut!**



How can you cut a doughnut into eight equal pieces with only three cuts of a knife?



In addition, Year 3/4 have been involved in a wide variety of exciting home learning projects including these by Sam O.



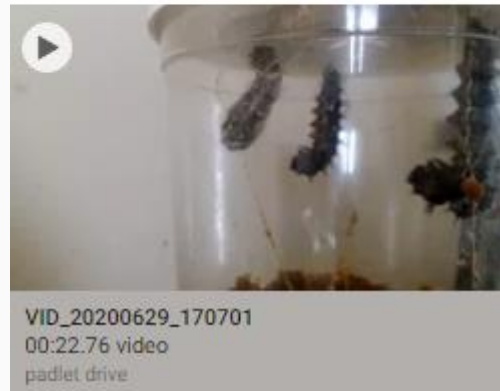
## Caterpillars

This is my pot of caterpillars! We have had them for a week and they have grown a lot. I am looking forward to watching them make their cocoons and turning into butterflies. Sam



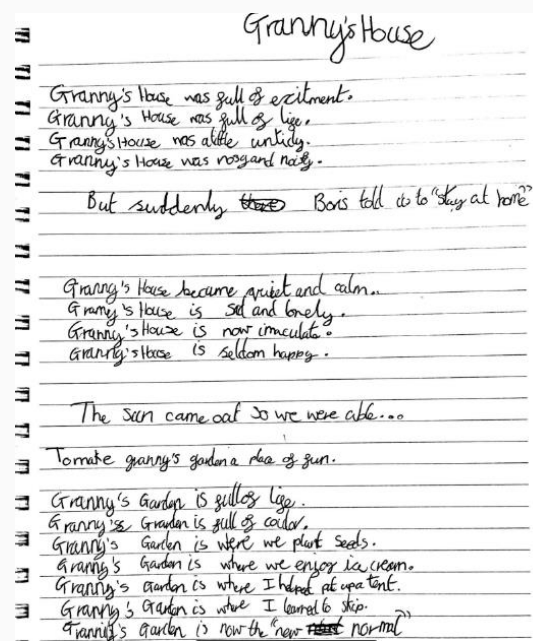
## Chrysalides

Yesterday our caterpillars went to the top of the pot and hung upside down. Here is a video of the first one making its chrysalis! It was very wriggly! They are all chrysalides now and look fascinating.



It was National Writing Day on 24th June and we had some fabulous 24 word story contributions which we tweeted! As a final word, we hope you enjoy reading this beautiful poem from Annabel.

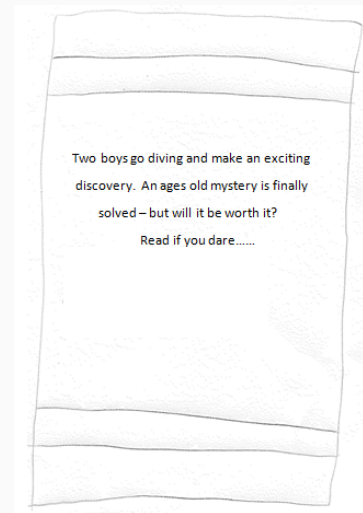
*From Ms McCarron*



## Year 5

Here are two examples of the wonderful work by our Turquoise homelearners. Here is the beautiful front cover of Maisie's RE PPT, and a taster of the back cover of Sam G's story 'The Diary'.

*From Mr Weinberger*



## YEAR 6 NEWS

### **COBALT POD**

*Miss Smith & Mrs Aldridge*

We have made kites and flown them on the field. We had a personal tutorial from Kjartan Poskitt and made our hexa hexa flexagons. It was a treasure chest magic trick. Very difficult to make but lots of fun. See [www.flexomania.com](http://www.flexomania.com) for templates if you fancy doing these at home! We have started to make a memory stone which we are going to leave in our zone for the y5s to remember us by! We have also made 3D tin foil models (in any pose we chose) using the dimensions of the human body.





We found a good game to play called Ion! Our film with Mr Bradshaw continues with this week seeing us dancing ! Still ... watch this space. **By Cobalt Y6's**

---

## **TURQUOISE POD**

**Mr Weinberger & Miss Tonner**

Not long to go before Y6 say goodbye to Minch! This week we have finished our non-linear books based on a story called Barrowquest. They have been quite a complicated task as we have had to have 4 alternate endings for each chapter! We have decided to make booklets for the new Y5/6 pupils offering them advice about the trickier aspects of Maths. Mr Bradshaw has been in to do the last bits of filming for our leavers' video. We can't wait for everyone to see it, especially our amazing dance moves! 😊 **By Turquoise Y6's**

---

## **SKY POD**

**Mr Ricketts & Miss Tonner**

On Monday we did some science experiments called Walking on Water and Leakproof Bag. We hope you enjoy these pictures. We have also been writing our Barrowquest story which is a story where you can chose from different options for example "which one do you choose, green, red, blue, yellow and pink (this is known as a non-linear story). Depending on the choices you make, the story changes the outcome at the end.







In maths we have been constructing things to help the Y5s. These can consist of something called an explosion book, or a poster. If you do not know what an explosion book is, it is basically 3 pieces of square paper folded and stuck together in a certain way to make 10 smaller squares that fold into one. They sound quite complicated but really, they are quite easy to make. In explosion books you can learn about anything, from dividing fractions to how the body works. This is what we have been doing in Sky class this week. *By Sky Y6's*

## [PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION \(PTA\)](#)

### ***New PTA Website!!***

The PTA has a website!! Ever stuck wondering when the next cake sale or non-school uniform fundraiser is? Want to find out how much money we've raised or what it's being spent on? Do you want to find out what was discussed in the last meeting? Or perhaps you want to get involved with an event or contact the committee. It's all available online at <https://minchschooldpta.wordpress.com/> We hope it'll make PTA information more easily accessible for everyone and reduce our use of paper to promote events. Have a look - we'd love to hear what you think of it.

---



## **LATEST GOVERNMENT UPDATE**

### **Department for Education's plans for all children and young people to return to full-time education at the start of the autumn term:**

The Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, announced our plans for all children and young people to return to full-time education at the start of the autumn term in Parliament today.

The DfE have published the supporting guidance that provides schools, colleges and nurseries with the details to plan for a full return. The guidance has been developed in close consultation with sector stakeholders and medical experts from Public Health England.

Nurseries and other early years providers, including childminders, have already been welcoming back children of all ages since 1 June, with a range of protective measures in place. From 20 July, restrictions on group sizes for nurseries, childminders and other early years providers will be lifted, increasing capacity for more children to return, as set out in the updated guidance.

The schools guidance sets out a range of measures to protect children and staff. This guidance applies to all mainstream schools, alternative provision, independent schools and boarding schools and sets out advice on how you can minimise contact and mixing. Separate guidance has also been published for special schools.

The DfE have also published guidance for parents and carers on the plans for the autumn term to help reassure them about what to expect for their children.

The guidance for the full opening of schools from the start of the autumn term can be found [here](#)

The updated guidance on actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak can be found [here](#)

The guidance for what parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term can be found [here](#)

### **Collection of guidance for early years, children's social care, schools and further education providers on GOV.UK**

The Department for Education's coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance has been grouped by subject and audience on GOV.UK to help you find the information relevant to you. In response to your feedback, future updates to guidance will also include a summary of the changes that have been made.

Guidance on what early years providers need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak can be found [here](#)

Guidance on what school leaders, teachers and school staff need to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak can be found [here](#)

You can sign up to alerts on GOV.UK to be notified by email when new pages are published or existing pages change. You can set the frequency at which you receive these emails and unsubscribe at any time. Sign up to GOV.UK updates [here](#)

#### **Department for Education coronavirus helpline**

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

**Phone: 0800 046 8687**

**Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) & 10am to 4pm( Saturday and Sunday)**

#### **Handwashing advice**

It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides. **The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found [here](#)**

**The e-Bug project** is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene. E-Bug has published posters on hand hygiene, and covering coughs and sneezes, to display in bathrooms, classrooms and shared spaces. The hand and respiratory hygiene posters and other educational resources can be found [here](#).

## **LETTERS**

### **YEAR 2**

[Parent Pay for School Meals](#)

### **YEAR 6**

[School Meals Guidance](#)

[\*\*Click here for Letters\*\*](#)

---

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

---

## **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**



*Copyright © 2019 Minchinhampton C of E Primary Academy, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

Minchinhampton C of E Primary Academy  
School Road  
Minchinhampton  
Stroud  
Gloucestershire  
GL6 9BP

