

SINGLETON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Newsletter 26: 25/03/20

Dear Families,

Sending a mid-week 'hello' from everyone at Singleton. I appreciate this isn't the normal day for a newsletter, but I feel it is important to stay in touch.

Thank you so much for your support, kindness and understanding since last Friday. We only have a handful of children in school, whose parents are key workers, which shows just how respectful our school community is. Not all Headteachers have been so blessed.

We hope you are all starting to find your 'new normal', as this situation has now been described. I am sure that it will take a little while to settle into a routine. As parents you are managing a great deal and we have nothing but admiration and respect for you all.

Please try and remember you are, and always have been, your child's primary educator. If you decide that your child isn't going to engage with anything we sent home and is going to spend time playing in the garden, or baking, or watching TV, then that is your choice. That is your right.

We do not want you to feel any added stress or guilt in terms of 'home-schooling'. There is no right or wrong and there will be no judgements about how you choose to manage your child/ren's time at home across the coming weeks.

We made the decision not to provide too much online learning or set up a 'virtual' classroom. This is not because we do not care – quite the opposite. We know that not all children have access to computers/internet and families with more than 1 child, sharing 1 computer will be managing shared access.

The very best learning can happen as children:

- Read and follow instructions, weigh ingredients, use a timer and bake cakes and then share – equally!
- Load the washing machine, discuss temperature settings, count pegs, hang washing and then learn to fold
- Read seed packets, plant seeds, talk about growth and seasons and months of the year
- Jump up and down or skip and talk about why their heart beats faster as they count their jumps
- Estimate how many pasta bows will be needed for a family of 4 if everyone has 20 pieces
- Watch Finding Nemo with you, and discuss how Nemo handled new changes in uncharted seas

Children are filled to the top with curiosity – they will start to use this time in a way which reflects their interests. The very best thing a child can ever say – is 'I'm bored'. As a parent, respond with a smile, walk away and see what happens next. From boredom, creativity often strikes. You may need to 'grit your teeth' a little as you walk away – but give it time!

The best thing children and families can do together is read – books or online or audio stories. Expose children to as much as possible. Read to them, read alongside them or ask them about what they are reading.

Reading is the most enriching activity for a child's education – it widens their vocabulary, fills their head with imagination and can transport them to other worlds and places – quite important at a time like this.

I appreciate the libraries are now shut and books are not cheap to buy. There are online books and David Walliams is releasing a daily, free to download audio book for the next 30 days – go to his website.

Year 6

It is very unlikely that the children in Year 6 will return to complete any primary education. Normally the end of a child's Primary school years are a wonderful, exciting time with treats and farewells. I would like our Year 6 children to know, that when the time is right and we can be together again, there will be a celebration, you will get to say hello and goodbye and we will treat you!

I know that Miss Yarahmadi is also coming to terms with this fact as well. I know how much she will miss teaching you and having an end of year send off – it is on hold and may be different, but it will happen!

A message to our children

Hello! We want you to know that although we are not able to see most of you in school, we have not forgotten you. We miss seeing you each day, teaching you and watching you play and learn.

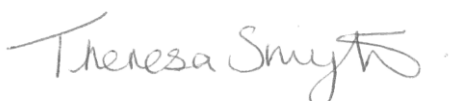
Here are some unusual animal facts for you to read and share:

1. A hippo can run faster than a man
2. A crocodile can't stick its tongue out
3. Pigs cannot look up into the sky
4. An ostrich's eye is bigger than its own brain
5. Kangaroos can't walk backwards

See what other unusual animal facts you can find and share them with your friends and family!

We hope that you are all being kind and caring to one another and especially to your mums, dads, nannas, aunts...!

On behalf of the staff and Governors, we send our very best wishes to you all.



Theresa Smyth