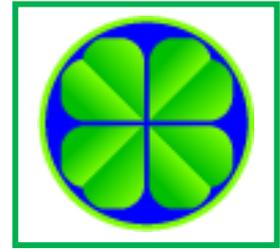




Tas Valley Church Schools Federation  
Preston CE VC Primary School  
Saxlingham Nethergate CE VC Primary School



## NEWSLETTER – 15.01.21

Once again we find ourselves in a position in which our schools are working together, gaining strength from each other and sharing many practices. During this lockdown period, we will return to publishing a joint Tas Valley Federation newsletter.

If you need to make contact with anybody at school during closure, please direct emails to us as follows:

Mrs Payne - [head@tasburgh.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:head@tasburgh.norfolk.sch.uk) OR [head@saxlingham.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:head@saxlingham.norfolk.sch.uk)

Miss Rich - [deputy@tasburgh.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:deputy@tasburgh.norfolk.sch.uk)

Ms Knight – [deputy@saxlingham.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:deputy@saxlingham.norfolk.sch.uk)

School Offices - [office@saxlingham.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@saxlingham.norfolk.sch.uk) OR [office@tasburgh.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@tasburgh.norfolk.sch.uk)

Both schools remain open for vulnerable children and to provide childcare for our keyworker parents to enable them to continue their work, and we aim to keep our offices manned during normal school hours.



### It's good to put a face to a name!

Children in Owl Class at Saxlingham have already met Mrs Knight on her visits to school in the Autumn term, and on screen since then. As our new Assistant Headteacher at Saxlingham, Mrs Knight will gradually become involved in all aspects of school, get to know our families and work with colleagues across the federation

### LOOKING AFTER OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Please continue to let us know if any member of your household has coronavirus – we will try to make additional opportunities for children to meet with staff on screen or on the phone if we know the family are self-isolating.

We are delighted to see so many of our children on screen during chat sessions and lessons. For those that are not able to manage this, we will try to get in touch by phone. If you miss calls or are unable to take them at the time, please contact us and let us know a good time for us to call again.

Please see the attachment with this newsletter for details of some free support available.

## HOME LEARNING

We have received a lot of positive feedback about the home-learning resources we have provided so far this term – thank you for this!

**BUT – we know that, for many of you, home-learning is not easy.**

We aim to provide a programme of learning that includes:

- Daily English and maths lessons.
- Lessons from all subjects in the curriculum, over time.
- Opportunities for short, daily, on-screen contact with a teacher.
- Further virtual contact with school staff, as an individual, group or class.
- Signposting to a range of quality, accessible resources for those who are looking for more.
- Feedback and support for children from their teachers.

**We know that not everyone will be able to make use of all parts of this programme.**

Please do what you can, when you can, based on your own situation - and remember we are on hand to help you with aspects you find difficult.

Whilst we can't promise instant response, a call or email to the school office will always be passed on to the best person to help you, and they will make contact as soon as they can.

**Please try to tune in to the virtual class meetings.** We have timetabled these to make sure classes don't invite siblings in different classes at the same time. We think it's very important to see the children and help them to continue to feel part of the class – and we know children love to see each other on screen. **If you do not have a device that allows access to Teams, please let us know and we will do our best to help.**

**When time is very short and the demands for learning and attention are very high, it is easy for contact with your children to become tense and difficult. Please don't think you are the only one finding the situation very challenging.**

**Some tips we have found from other sites, for making home-learning more manageable:**

Let older children devise their own timetable for the day – start by putting any 'live' sessions on the timetable; let them add at least as many 'play-time' sessions as 'learning time' sessions; you might let them add other things – 'family exercise', 'snack', 'read what you like time' etc.

Try to have a practical session each day to break up the screen and book time – cutting and sticking/ junk modelling/art work/ scrap-booking/cooking/ den-building/construction toys/ a science experiment/ a walk/ a keep fit session/ a household task/ make a game/ measure everything! / wash the car / go puddle-jumping/ dress up and act out a story/ how many times can you X in 30 seconds? etc.

**Give children choices – make them feel in control – this can mean less battling!**

**For independent workers, have check-in times when your child can show you what they've done and you can show them you're interested!**

**Take photos of what your child does – and create an online 'My Learning' scrapbook at the end of each day or week. Share it with school or with someone in the family!**

**Set up an online sharing date for your child and a classmate to show each other one piece of work they've done – make sure this is done safely and is not a boasting opportunity where one child comes off worse!**

**Give younger children a special activity to do that they're only allowed to do during their sibling's learning time. Call it their 'work' so they feel part of it!**

**Award your child 'independence points' when they have a go at something themselves – doesn't matter if they get it wrong, it's the trying that counts. Trade points for simple treats or stickers at the end of the day.**

**Reluctant writers might not want to write down what they learned about Ancient Egyptian mummies – so record a session where you ask questions and they give answers. Share their expertise with their teacher on your school's online platform.**

**Use raisins as counters to help with maths calculations – then eat them as a reward for finishing the task.**

**Is there a friend or relative who could listen to your child read via Facetime?**

**Learn some card games – great for smart thinking.**

**Don't think you have to fill every day.**

**Don't think you're failing if your children are bored! Children are at their most creative when nobody tells them what to do.**

**Have you got a tip to share? We will happily pass on anything that someone else finds helpful.**

### **Online Safety**

During this period of social isolation, many children are drawn to online communication with others.

Please – ensure your children only use age-appropriate sites and apps.

Check the content of what your child is posting – and what they're receiving.

Check what is happening on private messaging as well as what appears on public feeds.

Report inappropriate use – help keep others safe.

Look on the school website for more information.

## Financial Support

We are aware that the current lock-down may have had a major impact on the financial situation of some of our families.

Might you qualify for Free School Meals? You can find out by completing a very simple form and submitting it to Norfolk County Council.

<https://fiso.norfolk.gov.uk/synergy/Enquiries/Citizen/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx/>

The school will be notified of any successful applications – we are not advised of unsuccessful applications.

If you qualify, we will arrange for you to receive support in place of the school meal that would usually be available.

The school will also receive some funding that will enable us to provide additional support for your child when school re-opens. This support may be specifically for your child, if needed, or may contribute to additional classroom support and resources, if that is more appropriate.

We would urge anybody who feels they might be entitled to this to make an application.

## AN INVITATION TO CHILDREN TO SHARE THEIR SUCCESSES WITH US

Many people enjoyed seeing children's pictures in our newsletters during the first lockdown – so, once again, we invite you to send photographs for inclusion in newsletters in the upcoming weeks.

Based on the latest weather forecast, our first theme is

'WINTER'

Children could contribute a picture, a poem or another creative endeavour!

Please send photos to [head@tasburgh.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:head@tasburgh.norfolk.sch.uk) or [head@saxlingham.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:head@saxlingham.norfolk.sch.uk)

Please avoid sending these items to teachers or the school office – thank you.

*By submitting a photo for this purpose, you are agreeing for the image, your child's first name, school and year group to be shown on the federation newsletter.*

