



Federation Newsletter 27th March , 2020

Dear children and parents/carers,

We hope you are all safe and well, and of course enjoying 'learning from home'. Remember the work sent home is for a two-week period; do not try to do it all at once! We have been told that some of you are enjoying the Jo Wicks daily PE lesson, we must all stay fit and active, and so this is a good way of doing so. Attached to this newsletter is some information from Ian Simmons, from the School Sports Partnership. It contains additional ideas for staying active.

David Walliams, author of *Boy in the Dress* and *Gangsta Granny*, has a free children's audio story every day at 11:00, these are short stories from his book *World's Worst Story* a short story collection. A good time for your parents to have a cup of tea or coffee, sit down and relax whilst you listen quietly?!

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/uk/lifestyle/a31909033/david-walliams-free-childrens-audio-story/>

There is free access to phonics play with games to help our younger children with their phonics learning. The free login details for Phonics Play are:

Username: **march20**

Password: **home**

Website address: <https://new.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

<http://www.phonicsplaycomics.co.uk/>- this part of the site offers decodable comics, which children can access according to their phase group.

We would love to see some of the children's work , so please do send through pictures or updates on how they are getting on; we would like to include a few examples on our weekly newsletters if possible.

Internet safety

Many families will be accessing online learning, may we remind you that for safety reasons children should use the internet in an area where adults are around and can keep an eye on what they are doing. They should be reminded to be safe online and filters should be in place. If you have concerns about your child's behaviour online – please do get in touch and we can help. There are many guides

for parents on different apps, which can be found here: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides> . We are always available; you can email us using the admin email addresses or call Grassington school. You are not alone.

If schools continue to be closed after the Easter break, we will move to online learning. Each week we will publish a weeks' worth of work on The Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation website. This will be updated every Sunday evening.

<https://theupperwharfedaleprimaryfederation.co.uk/>

We are in the process of trying to set up special email addresses so that you can communicate with your child's class teacher if you need to talk to them about the work set. The class teachers will endeavour to get back to you as soon as they can.

Message from the Chair of Governors to all Parents/Carers

In these uncertain and unprecedented times our staff have been working tirelessly to ensure our children and school communities are safe and that learning continues. You will have received various communications and details of arrangements as they develop. I would however just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, all our staff, children and parents for the calm and sensible way in which they are working through this crisis. The future remains uncertain but be assured that we will continue to follow guidelines and communicate these to you as they unfold. In the meantime I would like to send you and your families my very best wishes and those of the rest of the Governing Body. I hope you stay well and safe.

All best wishes

Anne Vetch

Chair of Governors – Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation

From Rev David: Celebrating Creativity in Adversity



I do hope that you have all managed to navigate the last week and are beginning to get used to the new restrictions that have been placed upon us. We are in challenging times; some of us are facing new dynamics – like trying to help and organise our children each day as they learn! – Others are worried about life in isolation, and I am sure we all have concerns for the health of our loved ones – especially those who are vulnerable. This is not easy territory.

I am aware of the amazing way in which the communities are **pulling together** to help, support and love one another. It is wonderful to see the open generosity of so many; our relationships with our neighbours are deepening in this crisis. The Hub in Grassington (752222) remains the coordinating point (see online & facebook) but there are lots of local neighbourhood facebook and WhatsApp groups at work. If you need help ask.

In the midst of this I'd like to encourage us to **celebrate and rejoice** in some of the amazing creativity that is happening as Wharfedale folk respond to the challenges we face. There are some, like me, who have set themselves new **physical challenges**. I'm climbing Mt Everest over 30 days – a 1000ft a day – by going up and down stairs 125 times each day. I've joined with others in this in a small WhatsApp group and the ridiculous banter of that is really helpful. Lots of us will have enjoyed getting out for a good long walk in the sunshine as we participate in our allowed daily

exercise. I have been running on the fells at night; the view of the villages up on the tops and the unaccustomed stillness and quiet have been an enforced but welcome gift.

Some folk are getting creative by trying to take up or develop a **skill or pastime**. I know someone who, after years of intending to, has finally picked up the paints they bought many years ago. Someone else is learning to waltz and ballroom dance from Youtube. There is so much stuff online that can help and stimulate; this may be the time to begin that thing you were always planning to do.

Others are finding themselves doing **new things** or those that they don't normally get chance to do. There's lots of baking going in the houses near me – it smells great. Elaine and I ran out of Mayonnaise the other day, so we made our own; I'd never done that before... What have you been up to? It is amazing how resourceful we can be.

I know many of us feel busy, and maybe even stressed, but putting aside a small amount of time each day on something that is **constructive and stimulating** will help you keep going in the weeks ahead. There is the opportunity for family stuff together, and also for things just for each one of us. The weather has been fantastic and many of us have spent time in the garden, but in the days of April showers we will need more than the garden to keep us going.

Post your ideas, creativity and challenges online to inspire, help and encourage others.

There are daily reflections on the church Facebook pages to encourage us:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheBeneficeofLintonBursallandRylstone/> These are also on the church website: <https://linton-burnsall-rylstone.com/>

Know that you are in the prayers of the local churches and also in mine. Stay well and safe and may you know God's peace, and strength as we go forward

David

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A Reminder

Schools and all childcare providers continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with Education, Health Care Plans, looked after children, young carers and disabled children.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the link below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. Children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home with appropriate care.

We are currently providing provision for key worker children at Grassington School. Teachers and support staff will be in school on a rotation basis. If you are a key worker please keep us up to date with your requests for child care.

Advice on social distancing

STAY AT HOME

- **Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)**

- Stay 2 metres (6 ft) away from people
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

You can spread the virus even if you do not have symptoms

May we wish all our Federation family all the best....stay safe...see you the other side!

Mrs Boxall ,Mrs Besharati and all the Federation staff.