

Friday, 15th January,
2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your ongoing support in these hugely unusual times in schools! We very much appreciate the way that you have been so supportive in working with us when we have had to ask you to keep your child at home on a given day for various reasons.

You will all appreciate that like everyone else in society, our staff can develop symptoms, or are simply unwell or are needing to isolate. And of course none of us get any warning! So whilst I can assure you that we try to give you as much notice as possible if we cannot welcome your child into school, you will I'm sure appreciate the difficulties involved.

You will hopefully have received the information that we have cancelled the INSET that was due to take place on Monday, 25th January. There were many reasons for this, but it was partly in order to try to support you as parents as you juggle work commitments at home and parenting during this lockdown.

Despite us operating in a completely different way as a school the children who are attending are, generally speaking, coping very well. The measures to ensure everyone's safety continue to be reviewed and the children seem happy to be here.

For those of you who have decided to keep your children at home, we fully respect that decision and hope that your families too are both safe and well. You will have been contacted by phone this week by Ms Emer Kelly to see how the 'Remote learning' was going. I trust you understand that our approach is to support you in this as opposed to 'policing' it. We simply want to help in any way we can in enabling you and your child to access the learning that is available. If you have any questions regarding this please do contact us.

As during the first lockdown, your child's class teacher will contact you each week. The purpose of this contact is not simply to discuss the progress with the learning but far broader in ensuring everyone's wellbeing and offering any support the school may be able to signpost you to in what are very difficult circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

Dafydd Roberts.

Mercury

We have jumped into our new STEM topic this term. This week in English we have been strengthening our phonics knowledge alongside writing a persuasive argument, with some fantastic ideas trying to persuade the school to have pizza for lunch everyday! For Maths we have been marvellous measurers. We have looked at Metres, CM and MM and have found out the perimeter of Mercury Class! For Science this week we have created an experiment having magnets compete in the magnet Olympics to see which Magnet is the strongest. For enrichment this week we have created stained glass windows selecting different materials in a collage style and in cooking we learnt how to mash bananas using the correct technique.

Saturn

This week we have used the book 'Jim and the Beanstalk' (yes that is Jim, not Jack!) to inspire our learning. We created wanted posters for the giant, using adjectives to describe him. We then made a set of teeth for Jim and some glasses, using our new measuring skills to ensure they'd fit! We took our science learning outdoors and hunted for animals and sorted them into categories of herbivore, carnivore and omnivore. We really knew our stuff! We have been on a couple of walks around the village to study the local area so we can build our own 3d map of the village.

Pluto

This week "On-Site Pluto" have enjoyed writing thank you letters and hearing the story of The Iron Man (Ted Hughes) in English. In Maths we remain as competitive as ever on times tables and have been working hard on our individual number topics. In science we have been learning about famous bridges and learnt how to apply engineering principles to build our own bridge from spaghetti.

We have been physically active (within lockdown rules) and have been learning table tennis and using the school climbing wall. Three of us have also been doing the "morning mile", 3 laps around the school perimeter. Great job Pluto!



Harry's bridge was strong enough to hold a bottle of water.

Mars

The boys that have been in school in Mars class this week have been very busy.

We have been out on learning walks in the local area, we did a maths scavenger hunt in the graveyard, searching for shapes, symmetry, patterns (including the Fibonacci sequence which we searched for in nature). After this we did in the forest, searching for mosses, insects, rough bark, chewed leaves and much more. The boys thoroughly enjoyed themselves and even got to feed the ducks in the pond.

We have been learning about naturalists and this week we have studied our hero, David Attenborough, learning facts about his life and work. Next we have chosen animals to research to create fact files.

As well as learning Fibonacci, we have been learning to use BIDMAS (BODMAS) in maths and also playing times tables games together.

In food tech, we made bread and were really proud of our loaves, even using it to make sandwiches for lunch.

In art this week, we looked at the work of Alexander Calder and then had lots of fun creating wire sculptures that we hung up in the classroom. We also dressed our TA Charlotte up in a newspaper dress as part of our STEM topic.

I hope that the boys learning remotely have been just as busy!



Titan

Titan class pupils have embraced the new year very positively - given the current circumstances - they came back showing willingness to learn and engage. In English, we have focused on grammar, as well as tackling some descriptive writing, where the children have done very well, using adjectives, adverbs and different sentence starters.

In Maths, we have focused on place value, rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000 and on negative numbers, using them in context, as well as adding and subtracting them.

In Science we have started a new topic - Our bodies - and Geography, we are looking at rivers and the water cycle.

All children loved our Friday walk last week, although it was a crisp and chilly day!

Neptune

It's been a strange start to the new year again but we are getting used to it in our Neptune 'Bubble'

The topic for this Term is STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) so we have been making spaghetti bridges to support the weight of a toy car and following instructions to complete Lego models

In English we are designing a 'shirt making machine' and in Maths its Multiplying

We have also been learning basketball and table tennis skills, enjoying a walk, making fruit and vegetable based smoothies and creating an interactive smart board game



Galaxy:

Unprecedented times have lead to unprecedented levels of engagement and positivity towards our new academic work this term. Most of the class have been cracking on and getting their work done in record time, allowing them to enjoy more choosing time thereafter. It is incredible to witness these young gentlemen asking questions, showing resilience and taking pride in their learning! Well done boys. We have also enjoyed long walks in the rain, identifying different animal tracks and spotting the elusive red kite wheeling majestically overhead. We teamed up Hot Wheels with our science parachute, watching to see which car landed first and why we thought so. A fun week, keep it up Galaxy.



Winter LUNCH Menu

DID YOU KNOW? We use Free Range Eggs & MSC Fish! 18th January 2021

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Everyday
Main	Meat Free Monday Macaroni Cheese	Jambalaya	 Semolina	Beef Madras & Rice	Baguette with Bacon or Sausage	Salad Bar Jacket Potatoes
And to go with	Green beans	Sweetcorn		Tandoori Vegetable	Chips	Jelly Yoghurt Cut Fruit
Pudding	Fruit Yoghurt	Chocolate Sponge		Raspberry Jelly	Ice Lolly	

Supper
Connect

BRANTRIDGE BULLETIN

