# Ottery Primary School Newsletter

15 January 2021

## Reading

It is really important that your children continue to read as much as possible. Below is a list of sites where you can access free reading for your child. Please do not join everything! We do not want to overwhelm your child (or you!). We are aware that sites respond differently dependant upon which technology you have available so are just trying to provide you with options. There are other sites available too, these have proved so far to be the easiest to navigate.

Mrs Hatswell is organising a House Competition where your child can gain house points from reading and completing challenges connected to their chosen book. These will be posted on each Year Group's Google Classroom every Wednesday.

We would love the children who have already access to Accelerated Reader to carry on quizzing from home as usual. This is predominantly years 3-6 and they should have their login details. To check if a book is on the Accelerated Reader system, you can go to www.arbookfind.co.uk click on "parent" and then enter the title of the book and it will then provided you with the Level and the Quiz number.

Any problems regarding reading or access to online reading, please email Mrs Hatswell at librarybooks@ottery-primary.devon.sch.uk and she will respond as soon as she can.

**MyOn**

We are in the process of setting up a MyOn account. This is linked to Accelerated Reader and will provide access to 6,000 e-books ranging from picture books to AR levelled books which the children can quiz on at home. It will link to our school system so children should be offered books within their level range. Younger children who do not have AR access yet will still be able to logon and read the books. We will let you know as soon as this is ready with detailed information about how to logon.

**Ottery St Mary Library**

Children can register free with the library at www.devonlibraries.org.uk This provides access to 3,500 e-books and audio books via Overdrive and 2,000 e-audio books via Borrow Box. You would then need to download Libby (Overdrive) and Borrow Box which are free apps that can be downloaded through Apple App Store, Google Play Store or used on Web Browsers and these allow you to 'borrow' and 'return' books using your Library login.

**Oxford Owl**

There is free access to 130 e-books at www.oxfordowl.co.uk (Although this site seems to be struggling with the volume of people who are using it at the moment).

**Staying Home**

Sally Nicholls has released a free pdf of her book called Staying Home, about a family during lockdown. This is primarily aimed at EYFS/KS1 children, but can be accessed by all. (It is on Accelerated Reader - Level 2.6, Quiz number 238183).

www.andersenpress.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/STAYING_HOME_medium-res.pdf

## Free School Meals - voucher scheme

You may have seen reports in the press that all schools can now make use of the national voucher scheme for free school meals. This is a change from the first lockdown where schools could only access this scheme if they did not have catering teams who could provide lunches. We received contact from Endered, the administrators of the voucher scheme, on Thursday of this week with some further details. We will be able to access their system to order vouchers for families by next Wednesday.

Given the late timing of the reports in the press and the contact from Endered, we had already taken the decision to continue to provide a food hamper for anyone who had requested one for next week (week beginning 18th January). This was to ensure that nobody was left without any food for lunches. We are surveying our free school meals parents separately to establish who would like to convert over to the voucher scheme so that we can place orders next week. The vouchers should then be in place for the week beginning 25th January.

## Remote education

Thank you to everyone who uploaded work to the Google Classroom this week. It's been lovely looking through the work and sharing it with the children in school.

Hopefully lots of you have been accessing Ms Finlay's videos and challenges in the Google Classrooms as well. All of these are designed to be fun activities to help us all feel connected through this time of lockdown. Keep an eye out for more videos and challenges in the coming days!

Classteachers and everyone at school has enjoyed commenting on the work and Ms Finlay managed to find some time for this week as well. We are looking at ways to enhance communication through the classrooms and will keep you updated on this.

## Access to devices and IT

We have put together a short survey in order to try to support families who may be experiencing difficulties in accessing remote education due to issues around devices and internet access. We are securing a limited number of devices through the government and generous donations from charities and businesses and would like to identify how these can be most effectively used. The link the survey is below.

**https://forms.gle/8jmNz2kYsAsjTVaG8**

## Outdoor Education

This week, Mrs Bull has launched her weekly forest school grab bag and an initiative to inspire all of us to spend 1,000 hours outside. We know that, particularly during lockdown, screen-time may drastically increase, and so we would like to encourage our children to match screen-time to outdoor time (whilst following guidelines for daily exercise and social distancing). There are lots of 'trackers' available for recording the amount of time you spend outside - some were included in the first forest school grab bag. Our aim is to spend 1,000 hours outside by the end of the year, and 100 hours outside by the summer holidays. We'll be sharing more in the coming weeks, and look forward to hearing about your adventures in nature!

## Online safety

As many school resources are now being shared online, we are aware that our pupils are spending more time on the internet. We will be continuing to share internet safety lessons as part of our usual curriculum, both online and in school, however parents and carers may wish to make use of some of the 'safer internet' resources which are available on our website.

## Community Support

We'd like to extend our thanks to Hall & Scott and The Ottery Larder for their offers of support to families during the current lockdown. Details can be found below.



The Ottery LARDER

Following the govt announcement of a lockdown please note our new procedures.

We will be remaining open.

Our first priority is the safety of our volunteers and customers.
Saving food from landfill takes second place to this.

We will have to run an appointment system. These will be 15 minute appointments between 11am and 2pm.

When you attend the larder you must wear a mask. If you do not have a mask we can give you one. If you are unable to wear a mask we may ask you to wait outside but we will still serve you.
We will collect and pack all food for every customer.

Please do not turn up at the Larder without an appointment. You will be asked to wait for the next available appointment. We have to limit the number of people in the building and the time they spend there.

Bookings must be made at https://bookeo.com/otterylarder

If you have any problems please call 01404 600013 and one of our team will call you back. Please remember this is an operation run entirely by volunteers, and during the pandemic their safety and security will be our main concern. If you are unable to comply with these rules we will not be able to serve you.

If we can make them work, then we can stay open. Please bear with us while we get the booking system working, it may take a day or two.




Thank you for all your support, and we hope to see you soon.

Yours sincerely

Mark Gilronan