

Headteacher's Blog September (3) 2020

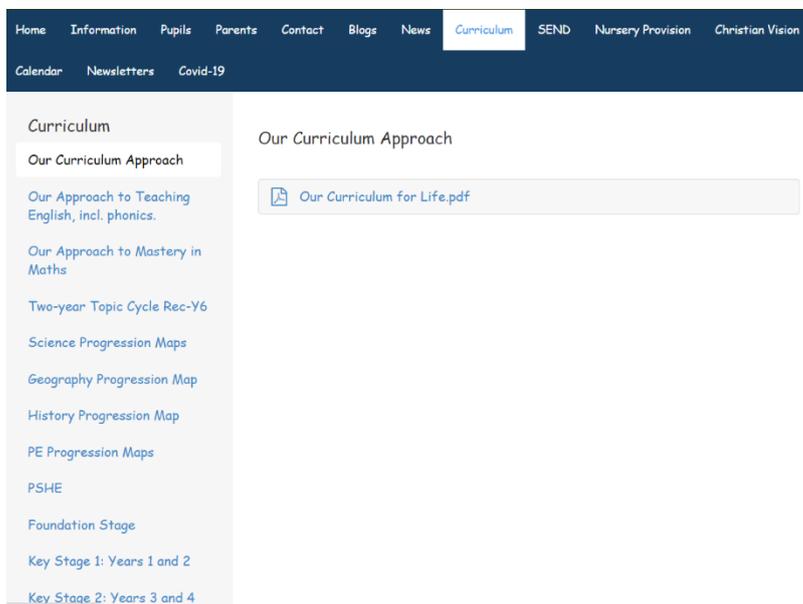
Safety

Please can I remind all parents and carers that it is your responsibility to keep close control of your children once they are handed over to you by staff at the end of the day. As it says on the car park gate: 'Playful children need watchful parents.' Thank you for your support with this as I don't want any family to face the trauma of an accident.

Covid-19 Parent Questionnaires

Thank you so much for your prompt return of over 64% of questionnaires so far. I will further analyse the data and make any possible improvements.

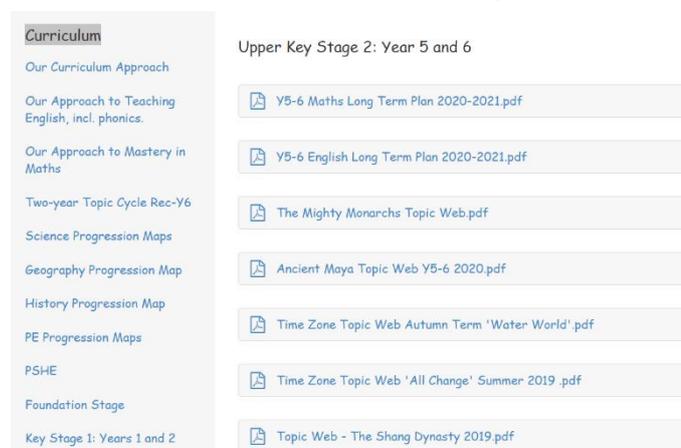
A small number of people have asked for guidance about the current learning for their children, therefore, I thought it would be useful to immediately direct you to where to find this information on the school website. If you select the 'curriculum' tab at the top, the menu on the left directs you to information about our teaching methods, progression maps showing key expectations in knowledge and skills for each class or year group.



If you select the key stage your child/children are in, the menu opens to show long term maths and English plans, as well as topic webs.

Additional guidance has been given to individual classes, e.g. spelling expectations, and pupils will be directed to specific learning via School360 or Tapestry in terms of homework. Using the Tapestry app is a great way to communicate with Mrs Swinbank for Early Years' parents and carers.

It is vital that you let us know of any problems you are having with online learning, as this is not only where weekly homework tasks are recorded, but if your child needs to self-isolate, then this is where teachers will set their work.



I have updated the instructions for School360 and Google Drive access on the website. Go on the 'Information' tab and it is the top item- 'online learning access instructions'.

I have added a 'Contingency Plan' to the Covid-19 tab on the website. This explains what would happen at different stages of lockdown or self-isolation.

Staff Contact

I am aware that during lockdown, staff communicated with families through a variety of routes and responded to direct messages as soon as they were able. All staff are back to full duties, plus additional cleaning tasks during and after school.

As it is my duty to care for staff wellbeing and workload, I will be suggesting that staff only respond to messages between 7.30am and 6pm on weekdays (not at weekends), unless it is an emergency. This is in line with policies at other local schools.

As we cannot have face-to-face parent consultations, I will be working with teachers to establish an offer of phone or video meetings instead. Further details will follow shortly, but I have to say we are delighted at how positively the pupils have returned to school and their enthusiasm for learning.

'Virtual Brenda'

As our risk assessment does not allow for the return of our amazing volunteer, Brenda Frier, to hear pupils read in person, we are delighted to have her back in the Library via Google Meet. So if your child returns with a 'Today I have read to virtual Brenda' sticker, you will know what that means. Our Year 3 and 4 pupils loved this on Monday and today I can hear Brenda giving feedback to Year 5 and 6 pupils. We are all learning to adapt to these strange times, but it is wonderful to see and hear such happy interactions!

Kindest regards,

Diane Lakey