

# Lockdown Newsletter #2



The way in which we are working is evolving all the time as we seek to respond to the needs of our pupils. This newsletter will provide you with an update of how we are working to support you and your children while schools are closed

## Communication with Parents

Thank you to parents who have been using the parents email address below. We have been able to reply quickly to questions. The answers to many of these questions have been summarised below for everybody. Please get in touch if you have any questions or are struggling to support your child's learning at home and we'll do what we can to help.

Please remember to let us know of any changes to your contact details while school is closed. We need to be able to make contact with all families and if we can't get hold of you, we'll start to worry. Please email any changes to the address below and update your parentmail account as necessary.

[parents@westberryfederation.org.uk](mailto:parents@westberryfederation.org.uk)

## Home Learning

Foundation Subjects ... : KEY STAGE 2 (Yr 3,4,5,6)  
78 students

Pre-school, YrR, 1 & 2 ... : Home Learning  
28 students

Foundation Subjects ... : Pre-school, Reception, Yr1 & Yr 2  
27 students

Year 3/4 Eng & Maths : Home Learning for Year 3/4 at Berry...  
58 students

We've had an increase in the number of children using the Google Classrooms which is great to see. The children are also quickly learning to use email and their online calendar too. The older children are using Hangouts and Google Meet to stay in touch with their teachers and friends and we encourage them to check the email, class stream messages and calendar daily to check what is going on. We've had some great examples of children sharing their learning with others by making videos about specialist subjects and running Master Classes. Some older children have made video recordings of their favourite stories for the younger children to listen to. Teachers are issuing Green Cards for good work - these are sent to children's email accounts.

When accessing the Google Classroom, the first page you land on in the Google Classroom is the **Stream** - this is a message board that everyone in the classroom can see. Children can post messages on here about anything and reply to each other. Teachers sometimes post reminders on the Stream for all children to see so it is a great place to start.

From here, children need to click onto the **Classwork** tab at the top of the page.

≡ Year 5 & 6 Eng & Maths  
Home Learning for Year 5/6 at Berrynarbor and West Down

Stream

Classwork

People

View your work

Google Calendar

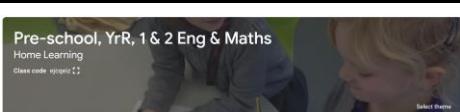
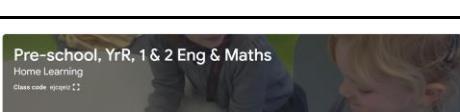
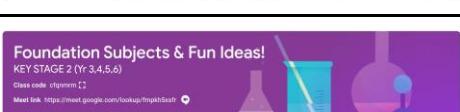
Then scroll down the page to find the lesson that they want, click on the lesson and follow the link. When they've completed the task they can leave a comment to let their teacher know what they've achieved so far.

It is not possible for teachers to receive, mark and provide feedback for all children's written work but teachers are keen to know what children have done and how they found the learning. **Children are encouraged to mark their maths and spellings and reading comprehension using the answer sheets.**

Children can leave a class comment (whole class can see) or private comment (just teachers can see) to let their teacher know how they got on and then click the 'Mark as Done' button. Children can click the 'Add or create' button to attach a file of their work for their teacher to see if they want to but this is optional.

Different Google Classrooms are available depending on which real life class a child is in. All children have access to **two** classrooms. Tasks in the Google classrooms are updated weekly.

Real Class	Google Classroom	What is in this Google Classroom
Mulberry Class (YR and Y1)		E-safety, science and technology, art and design, PE and wake and shake, French, humanities, life skills, stories to listen to (recorded by older children)
		Books and reading, phonics, English and mathematics lessons and activities.
Aspen Class (Y2)		E-safety, science and technology, art and design, PE and wake and shake, French, humanities, life skills, stories to listen to (recorded by older children)
		Books and reading, phonics, English and mathematics lessons and activities.
Pine Class (Y2, Y3 and Y4)		E-safety, science and technology, art and design, PE and wake and shake, French, humanities, Master Classes, Reading videos (recorded by other children), story corner (recorded by teachers), music and other fun activity ideas.
		Early bird activities (to help wake your brain up), grammar, spelling, books and reading, English and maths
Alder Class (Y5 and Y6)		E-safety, science and technology, art and design, PE and wake and shake, French, humanities, Master Classes, Reading videos (recorded by other children), story corner (recorded by teachers), music and other fun activity ideas.

		English (including spelling and grammar), daily maths challenge, maths lessons, Master classes, reading (including a story read by a teacher)
Cherry Class (Pre-school and YR)		E-safety, science and technology, art and design, PE and wake and shake, French, humanities, life skills, stories to listen to (recorded by older children)
		Books and reading, phonics, English and mathematics lessons and activities.
Maple Class (Y1 and Y2)		E-safety, science and technology, art and design, PE and wake and shake, French, humanities, life skills, stories to listen to (recorded by older children)
		Books and reading, phonics, English and mathematics lessons and activities.
Willow Class (Y3 and Y4)		E-safety, science and technology, art and design, PE and wake and shake, French, humanities, Master Classes, Reading videos (recorded by other children), story corner (recorded by teachers), music and other fun activity ideas.
		Early bird activities (to help wake your brain up), grammar, spelling, books and reading, English and maths
Oak Class (Y5 and Y6)		E-safety, science and technology, art and design, PE and wake and shake, French, humanities, Master Classes, Reading videos (recorded by other children), story corner (recorded by teachers), music and other fun activity ideas.
		English (including spelling and grammar), daily maths challenge, maths lessons, Master classes, reading (including a story read by a teacher)

Cherry class families also have access to Tapestry and can choose to use Tapestry, the Google Classrooms or both.

**If your child has not been able to access the Google Classroom yet or is struggling to find what they need, please let us know and we'll do what we can to help.**

## We are not expecting children to complete everything in the Google Classroom

Teachers have posted a variety of learning tasks to try and meet the different needs of all of our children given the different factors that are affecting children's ability to learn at home. **We are providing lots of opportunities for children to learn but have no fixed expectation of what children do.** We are just asking families to do what they can to support children's learning at home and to let us know if there is anything that we can help with.

However, some parents have asked for guidance on what to prioritise and this is summarised in the table below. We are not suggesting that children have to complete everything in the table below but it is just a suggestion of

how to prioritise learning if children have the time, resources and necessary support available to them. If you want more specific guidance about what your child most needs to focus on while at home please refer to their school report or email us [parents@westberryfederation.org.uk](mailto:parents@westberryfederation.org.uk)

<b>Year group</b>	<b>Top priority</b>	<b>Suggested daily activity plan</b>
Pre-school	See suggestions for your child on Tapestry	
YR	<p><b>Phonic and/or reading</b> - eg. use phonics cards or reading books. Watch phonics videos, play sound games. Make and play phonics games. Watch BBC phonics programmes.</p> <p><b>Counting and using numbers</b> - eg. number songs, stories and rhymes. Counting steps, plates, seeds etc. How many have we got? How many more do we need?</p> <p><b>Gross motor activities</b> - eg. running, hoping, balancing, throwing, rolling, catching.</p> <p><b>Fine motor activities</b> - eg. drawing/writing/painting, pinching small items (picking up jigsaw pieces, threading, using tongs/tweezers), using tools (scissors, knife and fork, paint brush, toothbrush etc).</p>	Listen to a story or sing/rhyme with a grown-up Practice phonics sounds Practice blending sounds to make a word Practice segmenting a word into sounds to spell it. Numberwork Physical activity Make, draw, write or do something
Y1	<p><b>Phonics</b> - eg. practise sound cards, practice blending sounds and segmenting words.</p> <p><b>Daily reading</b></p> <p><b>Use numbers and calculations</b> - eg. talk about numbers, count out an equal number of grapes per person, play counting games</p> <p><b>Gross motor activities</b> - eg. running, hoping, balancing, throwing, rolling, catching.</p> <p><b>Fine motor activities</b> - eg. drawing/writing/painting, using scissors, using a knife and fork, pairing socks and folding them together, pegging out washing using clothes pegs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Listen to a story</li> <li>● Practice phonics sounds</li> <li>● Practice blending sounds to make a word</li> <li>● Practice segmenting a word into sounds to spell it.</li> <li>● Reading</li> <li>● Counting and calculating activity - can be practical, or watch BBC programme or White Rose Maths from Google classroom,</li> <li>● Physical activity</li> <li>● Make, draw, write or do something</li> </ul>
Y2	<p><b>Daily reading</b> - eg. use phonic knowledge to decode unfamiliar words</p> <p><b>Use numbers and calculations</b> - eg. play number games, maths activity from the Google classroom, help with measuring when cooking/making.</p> <p><b>Gross motor activities</b> - eg. running, hoping, balancing, throwing, rolling, catching, striking a ball, skipping with rope, riding a bike or</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Listen to a story</li> <li>● Practice phonics sounds</li> <li>● Practice blending sounds to make a word</li> <li>● Practice segmenting a word into sounds to spell it.</li> <li>● Reading</li> <li>● Counting and calculating activity - can be practical, or watch BBC programme or White Rose Maths from Google classroom,</li> </ul>

	scooter.  <b>Fine motor activities</b> - eg. drawing/writing/painting, using scissors, using a knife and fork, folding clothes, making a bed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical activity</li> <li>Make, draw, write or do something</li> </ul>
Y3	Daily reading	Reading
Y4	Daily calculation practice	Maths activity from Google classroom
Y5	Daily writing	English activity from Google classroom
Y6	Daily physical activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical activity</li> <li>Something else (eg. french, music, science, art etc)</li> <li>Listen to a story</li> </ul>

### Equality of Access

We have already loaned out more than 20 Chromebooks to enable children to get online to learn and connect with their friends and teachers. Chromebooks are a precious resource that are used all the time when school is open and we are happy to loan them to families who need them while school is closed. We ask that Chromebooks are well cared for (we DO NOT have any protective cases as they usually live in the charging trolley) and that they are returned to school as soon as we reopen normally. Chromebooks are easily connected to home wifi, mobile data hotspot or tether and a member of staff can talk you through this over the phone if needed.

Numbers of Chromebooks are limited but if you would like to borrow one for your child please do get in touch. If demand is high for the loan of Chromebooks we will prioritise children with no access to a computer or tablet, children who are sharing devices and then children who only have access to a tablet.

Many families have told us that their children are getting on better with home learning when some task sheets are printed out for them. From next week (WB 04.05.20) we will be **offering a worksheet pack** for children in YR - Y6. The printed sheets will support the White Rose Maths and/or English learning task set in the Google classrooms. The packs are not designed to use in isolation but should be used in conjunction with watching the online presentations. Worksheet packs can be ordered [here](#) and then using the form that will be emailed out each week. Orders should be placed by Friday for collection/delivery from the following Monday.

### Staff staying in touch with children

Teachers have been calling families on the phone or meeting virtually using Google meet. Please support your child to take part in class video chats with their teacher where possible - they'll get an invitation by email and will see the meeting in their calendar. Children can tell/show their teacher and classmates what they have been doing. If children don't join the class chat teachers will make contact by other means. If we can't get hold of you we'll worry so please return calls or emails. Often at the end of a class chat, the teachers leave the children to chat together - this is a bit like playtime at school and is often the bit the children most look forward to!



### Free School Meals and foodbank vouchers

We are providing funding of £15 a week per primary school aged child to the families of children who are in receipt of means tested free school meals to help with the increased cost of food while schools are closed. We are offering this funding instead of the national voucher scheme as we feel that it offers families better options in the area that we live. Unfortunately this support is not available to the families of children in KS1 who usually get a free school meal as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meals programme unless they are also eligible for the means tested benefit.

If your financial situation has changed you may now be eligible for means tested free school meals. If this is the case we would encourage you to apply. If your application is successful we will be able to offer you financial support toward the cost of food immediately. Your child will also continue to attract additional funding to enable their school to offer additional school based support for at least the next six years even if the change in financial situation is only temporary.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals>

If you are struggling to have enough food please get in touch and we will do what we can to help. We can explore a number of options including food parcels or providing food bank vouchers.

### Virtual Disco

Thanks to Tony (caretaker from West Down), we had our first Virtual Disco on Wednesday evening. We had around 80 families online: Children, parents and staff were dressed up joining in with big smiles on their faces. Children were using the live chat box to shout out to each other and could 'pin' each other to dance along together. We invited donations to support the North Devon Food and as I write this, the disco has raised £420 - thank you to all those who donated. It was a fun 40 mins bringing the children of our Federation together.

