

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you and your family are safe and well. We appreciate that all of our lives at the moment are very different, and obviously things seem very challenging at present. We can offer support as best we can, through the different forums of communication which you are actively using.

I would like to acknowledge the parents/carers who are continuing to work hard to keep our community 'ticking over'. Those working in the NHS, food retail, local government services- it's a long, exhaustive list of people, that continue to work tirelessly, often under stressful and difficult circumstances. Thank you!

That also includes staff at Wellsprings school, whether based in school, or working remotely. The positive feedback and support from parents/carers has been very much appreciated! I would say fully deserved praise as well, as staff have been brilliant these last few weeks.

As I am sure you are aware, we have posted a great deal of content on a variety of platforms. **Parentmail**, **Facebook**, **Instagram** and our school website, all host a lot of support for learners working from home. We will upload/send this post on all of these forums.

Y5/6 have recently added content regarding **Century Tech** (see below, if viewing this on **Facebook**) which allows pupils to do online activities linked to the National Curriculum. The software is noticeably more 'device-friendly' to a range of formats, which will help those accessing their learning on smaller-screened devices. Good luck Y5/6, and we hope you enjoy using your new learning buddy! <https://www.century.tech>

Y3/4 have provided some additional resources from the **White Rose** materials <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>. With the addition of online videos to support the maths, this is an ideal remote learning tool (for children of all ages). I know a number of you have been using the fractions challenge set by teachers, and we like the photos you have sent in demonstrating your solutions!

KS1 have set a challenge to paint or draw a picture of a rainbow. I dropped off some learning packs yesterday to houses, and I could see a whole host of rainbows pasted on people's front windows. They really did make me smile, not something I usually do! KS1 have also shared a great site to support your child's phonics learning, Phonics Play <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>. I am sure your child (whatever age they are) will recognise and love playing these interactive word games!

Parents/carers of EYFS children have been receiving updates via **Tapestry** and the staff have uploaded videos to support the phonics teaching at home. A lot of the communication with parents/carers has been focused through this platform, as it has been well-used by the setting for a number of years. In the last couple of weeks, the team have also started a Monday video of a staff member reading a story voted by the children. Mrs Lawrence was this week's reader- I hope our Reception/Nursery children enjoyed the winning 'read'!

There were a number of links posted for KS2 and KS1 to support a range of learning, across the curriculum. They are extensive, and it is sometimes really hard to decide which ones to choose. Our advice, is stick to a few at a time to get to know how they work. Each site usually has endless hours of 'play/learning time' and sometimes requires a bit of stickability to get the best out of them. However, the use of all these tech-based sites are just **one way** to support learning at home.

I am sure you will have seen the 'Think outside the box' (Mrs Hepple's!) art challenge over the last couple of weeks. If you haven't yet entered, please send in your entries to the following email addresses:

[EYFS@wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk](mailto:EYFS@wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk) (Nursery/Reception)

[Year1@wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk](mailto:Year1@wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk) (Year 1)

[Year2@wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk](mailto:Year2@wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk) (Year 2)

[Year3-4@wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk](mailto:Year3-4@wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk) (Year 3/4)

[Years5-6@wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk](mailto:Years5-6@wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk) (Year 5/6)

If Lego is your thing, check out the 30 day Lego challenge posted on our **Facebook** page- see if you have the stamina to see it through the full 30 days!

We have also posted additional content on our Instagram account, <https://www.instagram.com/wellspringsprimary>. See what the children have been up to in school, and there are some art-based challenges for children for you to do at home (including the 'Think outside the box' challenge). Join in the [#isolationartschool](https://www.instagram.com/isolationartschool), which encourages artists of all ages, to share their artwork across the world.

There are also links to other great Instagram 'learning at home' resources, like [@oliverjeffers](https://www.instagram.com/oliverjeffers), where you can hear a daily read of one of his many books. He is part of the [#stayathomestorytime](https://www.instagram.com/stayathomestorytime) movement, which has a wealth of followers, sharing story readings online.

We have recently added a video on our **Facebook** page, about Easter. Over the coming week, we will continue to share some Easter-friendly ideas on **Facebook** and **Instagram**. Parents/carers with children in Reception or Nursery, additionally as we have mentioned, have contact with the Early Years team, through **Tapestry** which which has a wealth of multi-media options.

We hope you continue to 'stay safe' and we will continue to stay in touch, over the Easter period.

Mr Lunn

<https://www.somerset.org.uk/sites/wellsprings>