

Rokesly Infant and Nursery School

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At Rokesly...

Our community is warm and welcoming

Learning is fun and fascinating

We celebrate the things that make us special

We challenge ourselves to go further

♥ We are in this together – even when we are all apart ♥

Thursday 11th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

It is now week 6 of the National lockdown and this is my last newsletter before half term.

School is closed for everyone over the half term break and there is no expectation that children will do any school work next week. All the staff are looking forward to a rest and it is really important that you and the children have one, too. I know options are limited at the moment, but please take time to relax and have fun.

Last week was **Children's Mental Health Awareness Week**, and I shared some tips and resources to help parents find balance in daily expectations and deal with emotions. There are more resources, activities and tips for parents available here:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/news/how-parents-and-carers-can-support-childrens-mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

ENJOY A BOOK A DAY

This week we want you to relax, play and have fun, but please still make sure you read every day. If you find that you have read all the books you have been given you can re-read them again as fluency is very important. There are also the following websites which have loads of books that you can also read.

Big Cat ebooks may have been shared with you by your teacher already. We use them in school and they are great for developing fluency. If you use this log in, there are hundreds to choose from - in every book band colour.

<https://ebooks.collinsopenpage.com/bigcat/index.html#/samples>

- username: bigcat@harpercollins.co.uk
- Password for February : 3Uw!550Zv!

Oxford Owl for Home: help your child learn at home Oxford Owl (colour banded books)

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

BookTrust Stories for kids online and fun games to play

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/>

Audio Stories - BBC Teach

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/audio-stories/zh3t2sg>

If you are missing the library, you can visit the Virtual Library here to read some great books and even meet some of the authors

<https://library.thenational.academy/>

Don't forget you can also enjoy watching our virtual stories on the Home Learning page

<https://www.rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk/rokesly-home-learning-page/>

HALF TERM STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

Theatre group Streatham Space Project are running a story telling workshop on Sunday 21st February from 11:00-11:30. The **Marvellous Myth Hunter** is an online interactive storytelling event for children aged 5 – 8 and their adults. They want this show to be accessible to as many people as possible, so are asking parents to pay what you are able to. Please see the link below for further details.

<https://www.streathamspaceproject.co.uk/whats-on/calendar/marvellousmythhunteramazingartefacts>

BOLOH

The pandemic has affected Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic families more than others. There are many ways Covid-19 might have affected you. You may have experienced bereavement, loss, unemployment, financial difficulties, be concerned about your child's schooling or future, worried about a friend or family, stressed and anxious about lockdown. **Boloh Helpline** is a service launched by Barnardo's with funding from the National Emergencies Trust in response to the impact of the pandemic on Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities who have been disproportionately affected. Find out more about contacting Boloh for support here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1knvULovwTYzZ4uKrGlt1HYCpi5r8W9wb/view?usp=sharing>

CBBC IS ON YOUTUBE

The BBC has made an exciting revamp to the [CBBC YouTube Channel](#) for entertainment at half term and when home learning has finished. They are uploading videos daily that are suitable for 5-11 year olds. All the top CBBC brands on here, with a wide range of genres from factual shows, news, dramas, comedy to entertainment. Programmes like Horrible Histories, Blue Peter, Newsround, The Next Step, Saturday Mash-Up, Operation Ouch, the Playlist, the Dumping Ground, Heirs of the Night and Jamie Johnson. They are also welcoming back Dani Harmer in the brilliant new programme My Mum Tracy Beaker.

If you are interested in watching, just subscribe to www.youtube.com/cbbc - (it's completely free to subscribe!) and don't forget to watch the CBBC live daily and on the BBC iPlayer.

THANK YOUs

A huge thank you to everyone who donated an unwanted laptop this week. We received a really generous donation of 25 machines and have already converted 12 to chromebooks and loaned them to our families. It has been great to see so many of your photos and videos sent in via your class emails to show us the fun things you have been doing at home. Please keep sending them in. We have really appreciated the many supportive comments all of us have received. It was especially lovely to see Hazel mentioned in a national newspaper – I hope the fame doesn't change her!

THE FUTURE

There is a great deal of speculation in the media about when schools will re-open. We appreciate that for many Rokesly families, especially those who are supporting children at home, this is an extremely challenging time. After half term, we will continue to provide school places for vulnerable children and those of critical workers to access their remote learning. We also expect our nursery to be open to our Monday/Tuesday and Wednesday/Thursday pods again, following our positive staff covid-19 cases and isolation.

As we approach the end of half term, school leaders have received no further updates on the issue of the full reopening of schools, but hope that we will get confirmation about the earliest planned return date of Monday 8th March as soon as possible. Rest assured, you will be the first to hear as soon as any further information is sent to us by the Department for Education.

REPORTING TESTS AND RESULTS

We will continue to report covid -19 cases in our community during the half-term break. If your child has Covid-19 symptoms, you must still take them for a test and inform the school. If your child has a test, it is still important you **let us know** as soon as they get their result: covid-report@rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk

ROKESLY ART PAGE <https://www.rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk/rokesly-art-page/>

If you are feeling creative over the half-term break, please try one of our art challenges. Send your awesome art to Marisa artclub@rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk (If you make a rock pet, please title it **Art Exhibition** and we will put it on the exhibition's Instagram site with the hashtag # Great Big Art Exhibition)

COOKERY CLUB <https://www.rokesly-inf.haringey.sch.uk/rokesly-home-learning-page/>

I hope you get a chance to watch Marisa and Katarina's cookery videos on the home learning page. They show you how make some tasty treats, so please have a go over half term. If you have a recipe to share, send it in.

CATCH UP PLANS

We want to reassure all parents and carers that we are already planning how we will best support children to catch up once they begin to attend school again. In the Autumn Term, we assessed the children as soon as they were back so we could set up class and small group work to make up for any work missed. These interventions were already helping children make great progress when everything was cut short due to the latest lockdown.

We will reassess all the children when they return next half term and we will adapt our lessons and interventions to help children recover their lost learning quickly.

If we return as planned on March 8th, we will hold parent conferences from Monday 22nd March to talk about your child's progress and look at any areas they need to work on.

Your hard work really helped the children stay on track last year, and we are confident that with the incredible support you have given them since Christmas, we will be back to normal very quickly.

OTHER SUPPORT FOR OUR FAMILIES

Connected Communities is available to support families who need additional help or support. No referral is needed and help can be found at the below or by calling 0208 489 4431. The phone line is open every day except bank holidays.

- [Apple Store](#)
- [Play store](#)

For emergency food provision there are details and a map of local foodbanks ([here](#)).

A MESSAGE FROM ROKESLY GOVERNORS

To all parents, carers and pupils,

I hope you are keeping well and safe.

Before we break up for half term, on behalf of the Governing Body I wanted to thank you all for the support you have given to the school during these exceptionally challenging times.

Our pupils have been working really hard to complete their learning and we are very aware that parents and carers are supporting this whilst juggling work and other commitments at home.

Whether looking after key worker children or vulnerable children at school, or providing care in the nursery, or delivering remote learning at the other end of a computer screen, our teaching and school support staff too are doing a fantastic job. Everyone learning what works and what doesn't as we go and, importantly, trying to ensure all our families can access the school's resources.

So while such a difficult period, I find it incredibly heartening to see the Rokesly community pull together to support each other. I know Grant and his staff really appreciate the supportive and helpful messages that have been sent in.

The school and nursery are just not the same places without all of the children and we hope that we can be up and running at full capacity when it is safe to do so. As you are aware, we are still awaiting the next announcement from the Government on when primary school pupils will return back to school. The target date is for the 8th March but this of course depends on the 'containment' of the Coronavirus. Grant will keep you updated on any information that we receive from the Government and Local Authority.

For now, I hope you all have an enjoyable and restful half term break.

Jonathan Mackay (Chair of Governors)

We cannot begin to tell you how we are all very much looking forward to the day when we can welcome all the children back in school and we can enjoy being together again. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if you need support.

We are in this together - even when we are all apart.

Grant Bright
Head teacher