



# FEDERATION NEWS

## 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

### **Federation News**

Welcome to our first edition of our termly federation newsletter. We have been working hard over the past two years of being a federation and wanted a way of sharing our whole federation news with you. We look forward to having our new website go live in the coming weeks. Keep your eyes peeled for information on our individual school newsletters and facebook pages.

### **Miss Dykes**

We are thrilled to be able to announce that Miss Dykes has had a baby girl and welcomed Poppy into the world last week. They are now home as a family and we wish Miss Dykes and her family lots of love and joy. Exciting times ahead!

### **Miss Groombridge**

We would like to welcome Miss Groombridge to our federation. Miss Groombridge is our new Year 3/4 teacher in Fylingdales School, covering Miss Dykes' maternity leave. She has made a huge impression on her new class already and it has been great to welcome her to our federation team.

### **Home learning**

Thank you to all of you that took the time to answer our survey on home learning. Attached to this e-mail is an outline of the results and our response going forward. We have plans in place in the event of a class bubble having to close and this will include a blended approach in line with the information that we have received from the survey. We are teaching children ways to access Class Dojo and submit their work as well as addressing ways to get printed packs out to everyone to save on home printing. Staff will always be on hand during school hours through Class Dojo in the event of a whole class closure.

### **If you have to isolate**

If you find yourself in a situation whereby you have to isolate through being contacted by Track and Trace, work will be sent via Class Dojo. Please ensure that you have accepted your class teacher's invitation to the online classroom. Miss Murfield who is a teaching assistant at Hawsker School is working from home due to shielding, so will be available each day for anybody who is isolating at home. We will be adding Miss Murfield to every online classroom, so that you can message her with any queries during the day to support home learning. No question is too small, so please just get in touch with Miss Murfield if you need to.


### **Harvest Festival**

Harvest Festival won't be quite the same this year, but we will still be celebrating this Christian Festival. Look out for a video that will be posted on Class Dojo of the school's celebrations. In the week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> October, tinned food/ packets of food can be left at a collection point in the playground and all donations will be taken to Whitby Foodbank. We will not be able to accept fresh items of food unfortunately. We are always blown away by how much is collected for this festival, so please consider donating in these times of need.

Kind Regards,

*C Barber*

Mrs C Barber  
Headteacher

Flourish, succeed; let your light shine 



Dear Parents,

Thank you for your responses to our online survey. At the time of Lockdown, we were all put into a situation of working from home around our own families, with you as parents being put into the same scenario trying to do both your own work and act as teacher too. It was an incredibly challenging time for everyone and I am so proud of the way everybody worked together to keep learning going for our pupils. Thank you so much on behalf of myself and my staff for the support and engagement you showed.

We have collated the responses to our online home learning survey and below are the specific responses in respect of the amount of work, delivery and future requirements of home learning.

Q: How would you rate the amount of work your child is asked to do at home?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Completely overwhelming (my child is not coping as there is too much)	10.26%
▼ Slightly overwhelming (my child could do with a bit less)	33.33%
▼ Manageable (just the right amount of work for my child and the flexibility is there)	46.15%
▼ Slightly underwhelmed (my child could do a bit more)	10.26%
▼ Completely underwhelmed (my child could do a lot more)	2.56%

Total Respondents: 39

It is hard for school to get the right balance for every individual family as you all have your own individual situations that will impact on how much learning can take place, whether it be: devices that are having to be shared between siblings, younger siblings who will need looking after, people's own mental health, adults having to do their own work at home. We understand that there will be challenges to the times that you are able to 'tune in' to something in particular, so moving forward we will be considering the online content and interaction that we can do, but bearing this in mind too.

Q: What were the barriers to engaging in learning activities at home? (where all that applied could be ticked).

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Lack of motivation from my child	67.50%
▼ Lack of time from me as parent/guardian	25.00%
▼ Distractions at home (quiet space to learn, other siblings etc)	52.50%
▼ Lack of access to online learning devices	10.00%
▼ Lack of internet access	0.00%
▼ None of these	12.50%
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 32.50%

Staff have met to consider this and in the coming weeks will talk to their class at regular points to support them in their use of Class Dojo, Online games, Zoom as well as the importance of having routine and structure to their learning time at home. To keep learning going at the pace that it is in school, we will support children in being more confident in the use of the technology and send information sheets out about how Class Dojo can be used effectively as a portal. We have attached some initial user guides to this report so that you can use them to help you at home. You will see from the guide that there is a new feature to be able to fill in a worksheet using your device. This will alleviate the need for printouts.

Q: How useful did you find the online platform Class Dojo to use with your child?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ 1 - Extremely useful	15.38%
▼ 2 - Very useful	20.51%
▼ 3 - Useful	35.90%
▼ 4 - Not particularly useful	25.64%
▼ 5- Of no use at all	2.56%

Total Respondents: 39

This is a strong response to show that having an online platform was useful in supporting home learning. We will continue to use Class Dojo and make use of the updated features that Class Dojo has introduced. Look out for homework being set via Dojo to maintain levels in confidence in using this platform. In the event of a class bubble lockdown or full lockdown, staff will be supplementing its use with some individual phone calls, zoom sessions as well as frequent videos and talk overs to explain the learning being set and how to carry out the activity. I would like to take this opportunity to say that the class teacher/ teaching assistant can be contacted daily during working hours and will be able to make a phone call to you during the day if you or your child need to ask anything or seek reassurance.

Q: If I am in a position to having to do further home schooling this year, I would prefer:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Only to use paper based work packs at home	20.51%
▼ Only to use online learning at home	5.13%
▼ Only use a mixture of online learning activities and paper based work packs	76.92%

Total Respondents: 39

It is clear to see that a mixture of online learning activities and paper based work packs would be preferred. Staff have met to discuss this and will incorporate a range of strategies to support a blended learning approach. We have also taken on board the feedback of the enjoyment of using a platform like Timestable Rockstars with the request of using other programs that could be used in a similar way across a range of subjects and are currently trialing another program to do this.

If you find yourself in a situation where it is just your family having to isolate due to Track and Trace or another member of the family waiting for a test result, work will be sent home via Class Dojo and Miss Murfield (teaching assistant at Hawsker School) will act as a link during the school day for contact with you. She will be contactable via the messenger service through Class Dojo.