



Newsletter 20
February 12th 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have made it to half term! There has never been a half term like it as we have all needed to change the normal ways we do things. We are very conscious of the pressures that have been put on parents and thank you for all the different ways you have helped your child and us to provide remote learning. The pressures have risen over the half term and is evident by the fact that we have reached full capacity in school – we would love to have you all back and let's hope that this will be possible soon into the new half term. I am grateful to staff who have adapted their roles and talents to support the children access remote learning both in school and from home. I hope the children enjoyed their afternoon, end of half term, celebrations today.

Possible half term activities your child

- Read a book
- Five ways to well-being activities
- Make pancakes
- Lenten Promise / Lenten bunting

I hope that the half term gives you all a breather and a holiday from remote learning – even if you can't go far. There is no formal homework but all children have been asked to read a book of their choice and to use the Five Ways To Well Being suggestion sheets to give them activities to do – especially exercise. We hope to share the ways they have followed the Five Ways to Well Being on their return as well as talk about the book they have read.

I have also been made aware of an initiative by the National Football Museum who are running a children's Football Writing Festival. I have put the details of the daily sessions at the end of this newsletter should your child wish to engage with this.

CBBC have also been in touch to promote the revamp of their YouTube channel. I have posted the details at the end of the newsletter.

Lent

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and, hopefully, some pancakes on Tuesday! The children have watched a Lent Assembly and we hope they will think about making a Lenten Promise. The PA have come up with a Lent Bunting activity – details are in an attachment to this newsletter. The PA ran this a few years ago and produced some wonderful bunting to go up in the school and at church. A donation of 50p has been requested and can be paid to the PA via the school gateway. Please see the attached for details.

Our Chaplaincy Team has picked the Catholic Children's Society for our Lenten Charity again this year as it is a charity that supports children locally and they need our support more than ever at this time. More details and activities will follow in the next half term.

Message from Hertfordshire County Council

The County have asked us to share their "Play Your Part" message which is attached. Even if your child is currently attending school for face to face learning or they are learning remotely from home – the same lockdown rules apply. Please do take time to read it and remind your children that for now, we all have to play our part in protect ourselves, our families and our friends.

Congratulations

We have had more good news regarding music exams. Congratulations to both Maja Kelly (5M) and Kai Seabrook (5E) who both achieved Distinction in recent Music exams. If any other pupils have had success in exams please let us know so we can celebrate our musical talent.

Maja Kelly – Grade 3 Flute – Distinction

Kai Seabrook – Grade 3 Guitar – Distinction

Well done to Michal Sojka (5E) who read the poem *Never Shall I Forget* by Elie Wiesel at the recent Watford Borough Council Holocaust Memorial Day. Michal read beautifully in front of a wide (remote) audience. We are very proud of you and your part in this day.

I wish you all a stress free and healthy week ahead,

Best wishes

Mrs Smith
Head Teacher

From Watford FC CSE Trust:

The National Football Museum's [Children's Football Writing Festival](#) is going digital and will run **15 - 19 February**.

The festival sees four authors reading from their books at **11:00am each day**. Designed to spark the imagination of football crazy youngsters, the talks will be broadcast on the museum [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#). Each will last around 10 minutes. The festival will also include simple writing challenges to encourage children to pick up a pen and transfer some of their football flair to paper.

Half-term fixture list:

Monday 15 February at 11am:

Author Tom Palmer kicks-off by reading from *Rocky of the Rovers*. Rocky is the younger sister of Roy Race. Join Tom and find out how Rocky plans to blaze her own football trail.

Tuesday 16 February at 11am:

The museum's Denise Lambert will travel back in time for the 1966 World Cup in this fun session for under 7s. The World Cup is about to take place but the Jules Rimet trophy is stolen! Can you help save the day? Assist Denise, and the hero of the hour, Pickles the dog, in this super story session.

Wednesday 17 February at 11am:

Author Eve Ainsworth, who wrote *Kicking Off*, will share the story of Hettie. It's 1917 and Britain is at war. Hettie begins supporting the war effort by working at a local munitions factory - home of the famous Dick, Kerr Ladies. Will she make sporting history?

Thursday 18 February at 11am:

Author Seth Burkett reads from *Tekkers* - his entertaining and important story about football and fame. How would you handle football super-stardom? Redwood Rangers goalscorer Zak is thrust into the limelight when one of his freestyle videos goes viral. As his online status grows worldwide, Zak discovers that friends are more important than followers.

Friday 19 February at 11am:

Author Matt Oldfield of the *Ultimate Football Heroes* series, shares stories from his *Unbelievable Football* book, winner of the Telegraph Children's Sports Book of the Year in 2020.

To get notifications before each talk kicks off, follow or subscribe to the museum's social media channels:

YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/NationalFootballMuseum

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NationalFootballMuseum
[Children's Football Writing Festival](#)

CBBC YouTube channel message

We've made an exciting revamp to the [CBBC YouTube Channel](#).

We think your pupils and parents may be interested in this for entertainment at half term and outside of home-schooling hours now we're in lockdown.

We are uploading videos to it daily that are suitable for 5-11 year olds. We have 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. We are also welcoming back Dani Harmer in the brilliant new programme My Mum Tracy Beaker.

If you think your child would be interested in this, please subscribe via 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.