

Friday 29th January 2021

Information for Parents



Jai, Year 4 Oak

Here's what you need to know...

- Message to parents
- Safety at school
- Update on future plans
- Financial information
- Virtual classroom survey
- Virtual Assembly

Nascot Wood Junior School

Soham, year 6 Rowan, getting creative with the snow...



**I made the
humongous, giant**



**10ft x 10ft
chess board**

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are keeping well and that your children enjoyed playing in the snow!

We are missing you and your children and hope that it will be possible to return to school soon.



Thank you for all that you are doing to support your children with their learning at home. We are acutely aware of how fortunate we are to have such a supportive parent body.

I am pleased to tell you that we have 100% of the children engaging in the virtual school. Some children are engaging throughout the school day and others are just attending the morning google meet with their Teacher/Teaching Assistant.

Where we have concerns about the children's engagement, we are following this up with the child and their parents.

The overwhelming anecdotal evidence from the children is that they are enjoying their online experience and appreciate having daily contact with their Class Teacher and/or Teaching Assistant and the ability to talk to their friends.

Safety at school

During the pandemic, our health and safety procedures have been designed to mitigate the risk of infection for our children, their families and our staff.

Given the high infection rates at the moment, and the pressure on the NHS, we have introduced further measures to protect our community.

At the moment, these measures only affect the children of critical workers who are attending school. However, in preparation for the return of all the children, I am making you aware of these additional procedures.

- All staff are taking part in a regular testing programme
- All staff are wearing a face covering
- Children are wearing a face mask in the classroom
- Parents are asked to temperature test their child each morning
- Children are temperature tested when they arrive at school using a non-contact thermometer

All the children who are in school at the moment have managed these changes very well indeed, and we feel that this vigilant approach has contributed to the low number of cases in the school community.

Below is a link to an article which suggests ways to prepare your child for wearing a face mask and some examples of children's face masks that are on the market.

<https://www.juniormagazine.co.uk/shopping/best-reusable-face-masks-for-kids-and-getting-them-to-keep-them-on/>

Update on future plans

Before and After School provision

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey about before and after school provision.

We had 129 responses, which has helped us to get a feel for what the level of need is regarding wrap around provision.

I have passed the survey to Miss Scragg at Nascot Wood Infant School, and she has sent it to her parents to complete.

Once we have all the returns, we will be in the position to begin looking at what we want to do in the future.

I will keep you updated as we go through this process.

School lunches

We will be offering the option of a school packed lunch, including a hot food option, from after February half term. Details about how to order this will follow and are obviously dependent on the children's return date to school.

These packed lunches will be delivered to the classroom to avoid children sitting in mixed groups in the dining hall.

We have decided to take this opportunity to go out to tender for our catering contract, with quality of food and value for money at the heart of our tendering specification.

We intend the new catering contract to start from September 2021.



Financial information

As we approach the end of the financial year, the School Business Manager and I have been preparing the budget for next year.

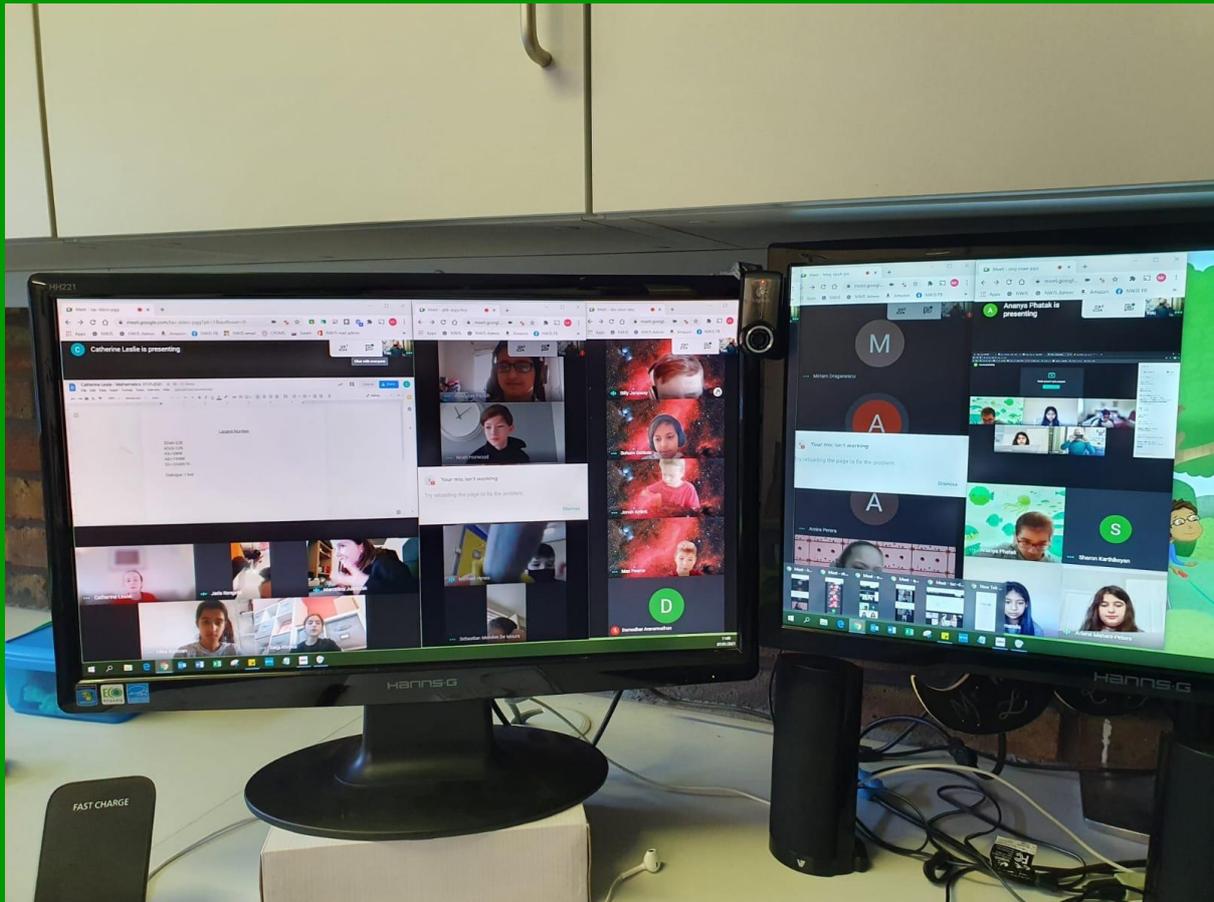


Given the huge financial pressures on schools and our loss of lettings revenue as a result of the pandemic, I am pleased to tell you that we have managed to maintain a healthy carry forward.

As a result of this, we are exploring the possibility of purchasing a chromebook for every child in the school, which will be available for them to use in school on their return (or soon after their return depending on delivery!)

This will allow us the exciting opportunity to build on the experience of virtual learning that we have had during this period of lockdown. The chromebooks will not replace paper based activities, but will enhance what we are able to do in the classroom.

This provision would more usually be seen in the secondary sector, so I am thrilled that we are able to give your children this experience whilst still in Key stage 2; an excellent preparation for the next phase of their education!



A google meet in Rowan class

I am in the process of surveying all the children to ask them about their experience of online learning.

Once we have gathered all the results (we have 193 responses so far) and read every child's comments, I am keen to extend this by compiling a questionnaire for parents.

I hope to have this ready by half term, and would be most grateful if you could complete it. It is likely that I will produce a bespoke questionnaire for every year group, so please complete a survey for the year groups that your children are in.

Many of you have been kind enough to email the school with positive feedback about your child's experience, and I am keen to capture this as evidence of the enormous amount of hard work that has been put in by the staff.

I would be most grateful if we could have a return for every child in the school, as this will provide me with the most comprehensive data set.

Achievement Assembly

This week's assembly will be available today at the close of play, and can be accessed [here](#)

Wishing you a happy and restful weekend,

Christina Singh

Headteacher