



Welcome to our January newsletter and a Happy New Year to all in the Robert Miles Infants community. It is not the start to the Spring term that we hoped for but we are keeping our fingers crossed that we can all be together soon.



We have been thinking of ways we can engage with our families in a fun way, while we can't be together. Today will see the launch of our new Instagram page.

One of the stars of the page will be our lovely new pupil- our school bear. He will be getting up to all sorts of mischief around school and there will be regular 'Where's the bear?' posts for you to try and work out where he is. Mrs Foster and Mrs Dixon have been busy making him school jumpers.

At the moment he doesn't have a name, so we cannot fill in his birth certificate.

Find our Instagram page and follow us. Under our Bear's picture write a suggestion for the bear's name to help us decide what to call him.



## Remote Education

We are three weeks in now so hopefully you are settling in to a bit of a routine. We have made the move over to Microsoft Teams and feedback from many parents has been positive about this. If you are still having any trouble logging on please contact school.

We would like to say a big thank you to the parents and children that are accessing and completing all of the daily learning that is being set by class teachers.

The Government's approach to education during this lockdown is significantly different to that of the one from last year. It is now statutory to provide remote learning electronically. This is to enable the teachers to give regular feedback, adapt the lessons based on the work submitted and monitor the children's progress.

The expectation is that the curriculum we provide remotely is the same as what the children would have been doing if schools were open so that children will not miss out on a big part of the curriculum. The idea is that when the children return to school the teachers can simply continue their planned curriculum and the children will not have fallen too far behind where they should have been.

We do know that it isn't easy but the more that the children do at home, the easier it will be for them when they return. Our staff are new to remote learning and teaching via technology, in the same way that you are. They are doing their best to find out what works well; we are hoping we can all be tech wizards by the end of this learning chapter.

When you complete assignments at home please upload and then 'turn in' the work to your child's teacher so they can see what they have been doing, which will help the teachers to decide what to set next.

We are aware that people do not have printers and that ink is expensive, so exercise books are available for children to do their work in. They are available in a box by the hatch at the office. Teachers will give advice on how to approach the work without printing off the sheet. When in school we teach the children from year 1 upwards to write answers in their exercise books, so the children should be used to it. We also know that some sheets are editable on screen and others aren't, so again use the exercise book, snap a photo of the work and upload.

We have been lucky to receive some devices from ReTech, Rushcliffe borough council and we are working with a lady in Bingham who has a Facebook page called 'Life in Lockdown'. She repairs tablets and laptops for children to use. Please let us know if you are struggling with devices so we can try to help.

## HELP WANTED



As spring is approaching, we would like to give the children the opportunity to learn all about how things grow. We would like to build some new raised beds to grow vegetables and flowers.

However there are 2 things we need to start this project.

Volunteers  
Equipment

We have approached some garden centres to see if they will donate any raised beds/seeds/compost/tools- but if you know of anyone who might like to make a donation that would help us we would be grateful

We also need kind volunteers who might help to build the beds and a volunteer with some knowledge in this area to come into school each week and work with the children.

If you would love to get involved, please email the office [office@rmischool.co.uk](mailto:office@rmischool.co.uk)

## Staff news

We were pleased to welcome Ms Aisling Rice as our new School business manager at the end of last term. She has lots of experience of working in a school and will be a great asset to the Robert Miles Team.

We were pleased to announce Miss Woodhouse's pregnancy at the start of last term. She will be leaving us to start her maternity leave at the end of the Spring term.

Mrs Attwood is also expecting a baby. She will be starting her maternity leave later in the summer term. We need to get Mrs Foster to do some knitting!

## Governors

We have had some changes to our Governing body recently. We informed you at the end of the Summer term 2020 that Mrs Jess Cash had resigned her post as Chair. Since then Mrs Judith Smithson and Mrs Louise Norton have left the Governing body and we would like to publicly thank them for their dedicated service to the school.

We have several new Governors that have joined us and would like to welcome them:

Mrs Melanie Modare- our new Chair  
Ms Nic Watkin (deputy Head of Newark Academy)  
Mrs Nicola Vaughan- parent Governor  
Mr Steve Crawford- Governor  
Mrs Attwood as our new staff Governor.

Being a Governor is a voluntary role and we would like to thank our new members for giving up their time for the benefit of the school.

## Well being support

Please see some websites below that may be helpful to support both your wellbeing and that of your children.

### Supporting children:

· Supporting children to cope without school

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-51959957>

· Talking to children about world news

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publication/s/talking-to-your-children-scary-world-news>

### Supporting ourselves: ·

Looking after your own mental health during this period:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publication/s/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

· Well-being

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing>

## Are you entitled to free school meals?

Individual and family circumstances change all the time and any change to your personal or financial circumstances may entitle your child to Free School Meals, this also gives the school additional funding which can be used to benefit pupils in other areas. Please continue to check your eligibility as there is no limit to how many times you can check and our office staff are always happy and willing to help.

You can apply online at

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk>, or by telephone to the Customer Service Centre (0300 500 80 80).