



# Colmers Farm Primary School WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week at our  
nurturing school



Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

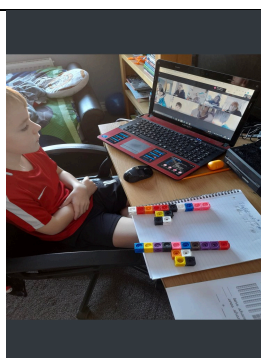
Dear Parents and Carers,

Once again, I would like to apologise for the inconvenience of school having to be closed on Monday and Tuesday this week. This always is a difficult decision for a headteacher to make, but the safety of our pupils, parents and staff are always of paramount importance. These though have been the first snow days, that I've ever had where we have been able to have children in school virtually. Over the last few days I've popped in and out of each year groups' lessons and I never stop being impressed by the commitment and skill of my teachers and pupils engaging with the lessons. I am so proud of them all.

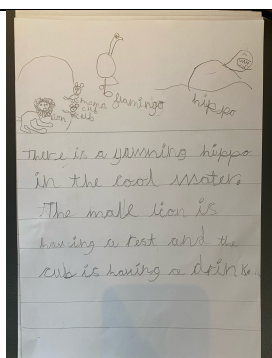
Thank you parents, for the tremendous effort that you are making in order for your children to access their live Google Classroom lessons, attend the key worker provision or to complete their paper based homework. Without you, your children would not be able to access any of these. We know how difficult this is for you all, especially if you are working from home or have limited devices to use. We have been astounded by your creativity and with how you have been supporting your children with both the work that has been set by teachers and the other projects they have been working on.



Lily (RC) and Alfie (4G)  
The biggest snowman ever!



Henry (3B)  
Working hard during a live maths lesson



Robyn (1F)  
Incredible written work!

This week, we had 50.2 % of our pupils accessing our online lessons and all of our pupils have access to a form of education which is either our online provision, including the use of loaned I-pads, paperwork or our keyworker or vulnerable pupil provision. Although it is really difficult at the moment please try to get your child to do some learning each day. Something is always better than nothing.

If you need any help, support or have a query please call 0121 716 0444 or email [enquiry@colmersfarm.excesliormat.org](mailto:enquiry@colmersfarm.excesliormat.org) Stay well and safe. Remember to keep sharing all of the things that you are doing at home (including your learning) with your teachers. Enjoy the weekend. Mr Williams

Mr Williams  
Headteacher

## DIARY DATES

04/02/21  
SRE consultation  
deadline

15/02/21  
Half Term holidays  
begin

22/02/2021  
Staff  
Training day  
No online lessons or  
keyworker provisions

23/02/2021  
School opens for  
vulnerable and  
keyworker children

08/03/21  
School re-opening!  
We hope

New on our website  
this week  
Remote Education Policy  
RSE Consultation  
information

Please follow us  
on Twitter!  
Our feed is where we  
celebrate the wonderful  
learning opportunities  
we provide for our pupils  
everyday!  
[@Colmers\\_FarmPS](https://twitter.com/Colmers_FarmPS)



# TEN TOP TIPS TO HELP YOUR CHILD



**1. Talk to them about what they understand.**

This would be a good time to check the facts with them on the internet as the information is changing daily.

**2. Turn off the news on the TV in front of your child, and limit access to social media.**

There is lots of speculation in the media and social media which can cause high anxiety. Limit internet access for your child and avoid uncertain conversations in front of them.

**3. Teach hygiene.**

Schools have been teaching all children good hygiene to protect everyone from COVID-19. As parents we can do this at home too. BBC Newsround has produced a video to explain about the importance of handwashing to children.

**4. Provide predictability/structure and routines.**

Children with autism need lots of predictability, structure and routines. Visual timetables (pictures, checklist, symbols), diaries or calendars can help with this. Discuss with your child each morning what is going to happen that day, who they are going to be with, what activities they can do and when.

**5. Keep them busy with fun activities.**

Use this time to do some fun activities at home that you may not normally have the time to do. Teach some life skills, for example cooking, helping with housework, reading, etc. Check with your child's school what websites they would recommend that could help with fun learning activities, homework or other learning options. The BBC is providing daily lessons on BBC Bitesize.

**6. Teach calming strategies.**

Many children with autism struggle to self-regulate and relax. Explore different options to help to reduce anxieties, such as yoga, breathing exercises, relaxing music, sensory games, meditation and video clips. Every child is different, and you know your child best. YouTube has lots of ideas for activities but remember to check them out yourself first before showing your child.

**7. Reassure them.**

It's important to reassure your child that they will be o.k and things will get back to normal.

**8. Keep it simple and factual.**

Avoid using language and terms your child may not understand.

**9. Call/ video call/ write to relatives.**

If your child is missing a favourite person or worried about a relative, explore ways to keep in touch to reassure your child they are ok, for example video calls through FaceTime, WhatsApp or Skype or writing them a letter.

You can find more advice from Birmingham City Council about talking to your child [here](#)

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# We're here to help

*We're providing a range of information, advice and support for parents/carers of children with special educational needs or a disability (SEND) during this difficult time:*



## **SEND Parent Link Contact Line - 0121 303 8461**

*For queries and concerns call [0121 303 8461](tel:01213038461) 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday and you will be signposted to the relevant professional to help with your child's needs.*

## **Communication and Autism Team (CAT)**

*Advice and support for families and children with communication needs and autism.  
Email [CATParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:CATParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk) for more information.*

## **Early Years Inclusion Service**

*Helping you to support your child's learning, development and emotional needs.  
Email [SENDenquiries@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:SENDenquiries@birmingham.gov.uk) for more information.*

## **Pupil and School Support (PSS) Service**

*Advice and support for families and children with learning difficulties.  
Email [LDParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:LDParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk) for more information.*

## **Sensory Support Service (SSS)**

*Providing support and ideas to families and children with hearing or vision loss.  
Email [SSParentEnquiry@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:SSParentEnquiry@birmingham.gov.uk) for more information.*

## **Physical Difficulties Support Service (PDSS)**

*Advice and support for families and their children with physical difficulties.  
Email [PDSSParentEnquiry@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:PDSSParentEnquiry@birmingham.gov.uk) for more information.*

*"We can do this if we all work together as a family"*

Birmingham SEND Youth Forum

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