

CONTACT

The Newsletter for Whimpe Primary School

Issue 9 - 20

19.06.20

Well another week has flown by and what a week. I know we needed some rain but not all in one go and why always at pick up time...

Following on from the governor phone calls it is clear that children are keen to return, it's lovely to hear so many have missed being here (and parents too!) After some quick planning and preparation, we are welcoming back the first of four bubbles. These bubbles are based around children in our existing groups. The parents of the children in this bubble have been contacted and informed of all the new arrangements. They are called the Meerkats and will be based in the committee room in the hall.



We will send out information for the next bubble early next week after we have ensured everything put in place and is working.

Please remember:

We are now changing reading books regularly as we are able to put books aside, however, we would like reading records, words etc. to stay at home. If words are sent home they are for you to keep at home. Please return any guided reading/library books to school as well.

We are really hoping for some improved weather but please send a waterproof coat into school regardless.

Home Learning

Home schooling is tricky and we are continuing to update our format and ideas to support. I thought it may be worth reminding you of the resources available to you:

- Spelling Shed
- Oxford Owl
- Read Theory
- Purple Mash - all curriculum areas
- Espresso—all curriculum areas

All these are available on ESchools on the class home page and the username and password for Espresso has been attached on a message to all children (as this cannot be publically available). Read on for new ideas.

Reading Books and Activities

How to access free Collins Big Cat ebooks

Access 330+ free KS1 ebooks from their primary reading programme

Go to [Collins Connect](#) and click on the Teacher portal and enter:

Username: parents@harpercollins.co.uk

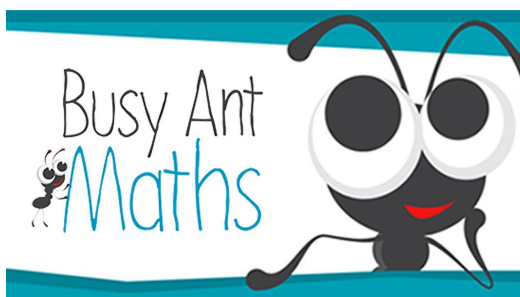
Password: **Parents20!**

and click Login. Download worksheets to use alongside Collins Big Cat at home

<https://collins.co.uk/pages/big-cat-ebooks>



Even though these books are recommended for Reception to Year 2 there are some really good titles for older children. Take a look!



Primary maths games - suitable for all ages

Maths games are fun! There is a short description of what each game helps your child to understand, as well as how to play it, plus a recommendation of which year group each is appropriate for. Click on the links below to get started.

<https://collins.co.uk/pages/busy-ant-maths-games>

Collins also have other free resources/activities for parents at present:

<https://collins.co.uk/pages/collins-at-home#Primary>

Maths Snacks Videos from the Association of Teachers of Mathematics

A group of ATM Mathematics experts are sharing some ideas through these videos to support children and their parents whilst children may be away from school for whatever reason. They are a mixture of tasks, puzzles, challenges, and games, selected to support and enrich the mathematics taught at school.

Many can be accessed by very young children, with a little bit of adult support, and all of them are relevant to pupils across the whole school age-range.

There is hardly ever a single right answer and there are many ways of working on these tasks. They are designed to be enticing and focus on working in ways that mathematicians do; such as exploring situations, looking for patterns and rules, asking questions and seeking answers, and, trying out and testing ideas

[https://www.atm.org.uk/Maths-Teaching-Resources/Maths-Snacks-Videos?ct=t\(December 2017 E newsletter12 15 2017 COPY 01\)&mc_cid=83bb569041&mc_eid=5708aba038](https://www.atm.org.uk/Maths-Teaching-Resources/Maths-Snacks-Videos?ct=t(December%202017%20E%20newsletter12%2015%202017%20COPY%2001)&mc_cid=83bb569041&mc_eid=5708aba038)



RNLI Water Safety

If you're a parent or teacher looking for ways to engage, educate and entertain your children at home, play our Water Safety Wednesday series - perfect for primary school-aged children.

<https://rnli.org/youth-education/education-resources/water-safety-wednesdays>

Remember you are doing a great job and if it isn't working try something different - be led by your child's interests and develop some learning around that. Making games, particularly board games, are a great way to develop skills. I love playing cards and Yahtzee! (Make your own versions too).

Look out for test and trace scam

We've heard about another test and trace scam, which is also trying to con people into paying for a COVID-19 swab test.



<https://www.devonnewscentre.info/scam-alert-test-and-trace/>

Here's what happened. A care home manager received a text to say that he had tested positive following a recent swab, and that he needed another test. He phoned the number in the text and was told that he'd have to pay for the test. He was asked for his bank details.

This is a scam, and it was quickly reported to the police.

For avoidance of any doubt, the NHS Test and Trace service will absolutely not:

- ask for bank details or payments
- ask for details of any other accounts, such as social media
- ask you to set up a password or PIN number over the phone
- ask you to call a premium rate number, such as those starting 09 or 087

Text messages will come from NHStracing.

Calls will come from 0300 0135000. You'll be asked to [sign in to the NHS Test and Trace contact tracing website](#).

Free school meals to be extended over the summer holidays

Children in England who are eligible for free school meals will receive a six-week food voucher to cover the summer holiday period, after a campaign by Manchester United and England footballer Marcus Rashford.

A spokesman for the prime minister announced that all children eligible for free school meals during term time in England will continue to be provided for through a 'COVID-19 Summer Food Fund', estimated to be around £120 million.

The decision will provide around 1.3 million children with meals throughout the summer holidays.

If you are on a low income, you or your family may also be entitled to claim for free school meals. [The criteria for free school meals is on the government's website](#).

You can make a quick application online where your eligibility can be assessed immediately, and let you know straight away.

To [apply for free school meals please visit the Free School Meal Portal](#).

We will be in touch with our current families, whom we have been supporting throughout the lockdown, to ensure this continues over the summer break.

Headteacher: Mrs. Carole Shilston

Telephone/fax: 01404 822584

Email: admin@whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk

Website: www.whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk