



**DODFORD FIRST SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER**  
*Every Day, a Learning Journey*

Fockbury Road.  
Dodford,  
Bromsgrove, B61 9AW  
office@dodford.worcs.sch.uk  
Headteacher: Mrs Lisa Parkes

## Message from Mrs Parkes

It has been yet another strange week of Lockdown and I do hope that you are all keeping well both physically and mentally. There has been a significant move forwards to try and begin to open schools to more children from 1st June. The school has been working hard over the past two weeks to look at how we can extend our provision in a safe and manageable way. A letter coming out separately today goes into detail on how we have made our decisions to date but please bear in mind this is an ever changing climate and we will act on the advice given to us. A further more detailed letter, detailing our risk assessment and expectations from the children and parents will follow next week. If the government change their position on reopening to more children on 1st June, they will inform us of this decision on 28th May, therefore we can only let you know this once we have been informed.

We know it is disappointing for those children who want to come back to school and can't at this time but we will endeavour to do all that we can to continue to make them feel part of the school through our newsletters, class home learning newsletters, competitions and challenges. Remember sharing images on Twitter will allow the children to see one another, even if only in a virtual way! Enjoy the next week, the staff have set a **Ten Teacher Challenge Sheet** (attached to this newsletter) for all the children to attempt over the half term, hopefully you will have lots of fun as a family doing the challenges and we would love to see the children completing them. Remember to post them on Twitter or send them into the office@ email address for the staff and other children to see!

## Online safety

There is a lot of support available to keep your child/ren safe online. It is more important than ever to monitor what your children are accessing during their time at home, ensuring that it is age appropriate and also will not lead to other dangerous behaviours such as online bullying. Whats App, Tik Tok and other social platforms do have age restrictions on them but at the same time are a good way of keeping in touch, so if used, set ground rules and supervise their use. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

- Thinkyouknow (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- Internet matters (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- Parent info (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- LGfL (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- Net-aware (support for parents and careers from the NSPCC)

## Upcoming dates for your diary

Half term break—Monday 25th May—  
Friday 29th May

School reopens to key worker children  
and reception age children only —  
Monday 1st June

## CLUBS THIS HALF TERM

Monday—

Tuesday—

Wednesday—

Wednesday—

Friday—

## ATTENDANCE

**Wrens %**

**Robins (1) %**

**Robins (2) %**

**Owls (3) %**



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## Home Learning

It is important to try and keep a routine going at home for children and where possible to give some structure to the 'school days' as this will help support your child when they need to return back to a normal school day. Thank you to those who are working on line or sending work in for us to see, little and often is best, rather than lots on one day. Below are some hints and tips to help,

- *Try not to worry about the limits of your own knowledge, and how you'll be able to teach your children subjects and topics that you don't understand yourself. Rather than letting it paralyse you, own up to the fact that you don't know something, and use it as an opportunity to learn with your child. You might be surprised what they can teach you, and explaining their work to you will consolidate their knowledge.*
  - *Don't be too rigid in your approach to home learning. **Many new home educators try to timetable the day as it would be at school, but this will lead to burn out and frustration for you and your child,** as it's far too intense. Trying to do too much will only deter your child from learning.*
  - *There's an abundance of information and guidance out there for parents, and with so many amazing resources at hand, there's no reason why you can't help to keep your child's learning on track. It's amazing what mathematical strategies can be understood by watching a well-made, reputable YouTube video!*
  - *It's normal for your child to behave differently for you than they would with their class teacher, so don't be discouraged if they push back against home learning. Discuss the situation with them, and encourage them to help plan their learning activities. This will help them to feel like a partner in the process, rather than simply being made to do it by Mum or Dad.*
  - *If your child struggles to adapt, try introducing activities slowly, starting with just one or two a day. You might also want to create a simple reward system to encourage them to complete activities.*
- Plan breaks and free time around the learning activities. **Encourage your child to play [board games](#), build with [Lego](#), play in the garden and bake.** You'll be surprised by how much English, maths and science can be incorporated into a good creative play session.*

Keep reminding yourself that there's no single right way of doing this. This is a very unique set of circumstances, and you'll all find a way through it in different ways. Remember, whether or not they're engaged in homework, your child will be learning from you, and showing resilience, determination and flexibility will equip your child with skills for life. We are also here to help, so let us know if you need our support.

## Contact details

We appear to still be having some issues with email addresses, if you have changed your email address, please let us know as soon as possible.