



Willerby Carr Lane
Primary School

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Newsletter

2nd April, 2020

Easter Chicks - a good news story !



Easter Chicks Hatch

Just as the school was suddenly closed, we took delivery of 10 little eggs and an incubator. The eggs had been planned to be put into the Early Years Foundation Stage, so that the children could see for themselves the awe-inspiring sight of the little eggs hatching. Sadly, we are not at school to witness them but we have been sharing some tweets of their progress.

We are really pleased to announce that the eggs have hatched and the cute little chicks are doing really well. At the moment, they are beginning to get their feathers and are eating a lot more. And they certainly seem to enjoy snuggling up together for a nap !!

Next year, we will order some more eggs for EYFS, but we promise to let our current EYFS children come back to see them to make up for this year.

Google Classroom survey

Last Friday a survey was sent to all parents/ carers to see how you were finding the online Google Classrooms.

Our aims in providing online education is clear. We want to do more than just point you to an encyclopaedic list of educational websites - this is not motivating. From the school's point of view, we want our online classrooms to provide your children with:

- 1) some form of continuing education
- 2) a sense of routine, structure and 'normality' to reduce their anxiety
- 3) a sense of our continuing Carr Lane family and community to prevent them feeling isolated
- 4) sustained physical and mental health

We have deliberately chosen not to take any form of 'register' nor push children to complete activities. We understand that you will all be under a wide range of stresses individual to you. We will just be happy, if we can help make your children feel safer and happier and provide you with some extra help keeping them in some form of routine.

The survey asked the following 5 questions:

Do you think the number of assignments set each day is: too much/ about right/ not enough

Over the 'Easter holidays' period, would you like prefer the classroom assignments to:

Continue as they are

Stop - to allow children to switch off from school entirely

Reduce in their content

Change content to a few open ended creative challenges

What is working well?

What would you like to change?

Any other comments

The survey was sent with a separate link for each year group so that we could use the feedback to help make adjustments to individual year group online classrooms, as appropriate.

The rate of response was very high - over 50%, which compares to our normal surveys where the rate of return is approximately 30%. All data and comments have been shared with staff. The feedback was very positive and was a real boost to the staff who have been working tirelessly. These two comments typify the response across the school:

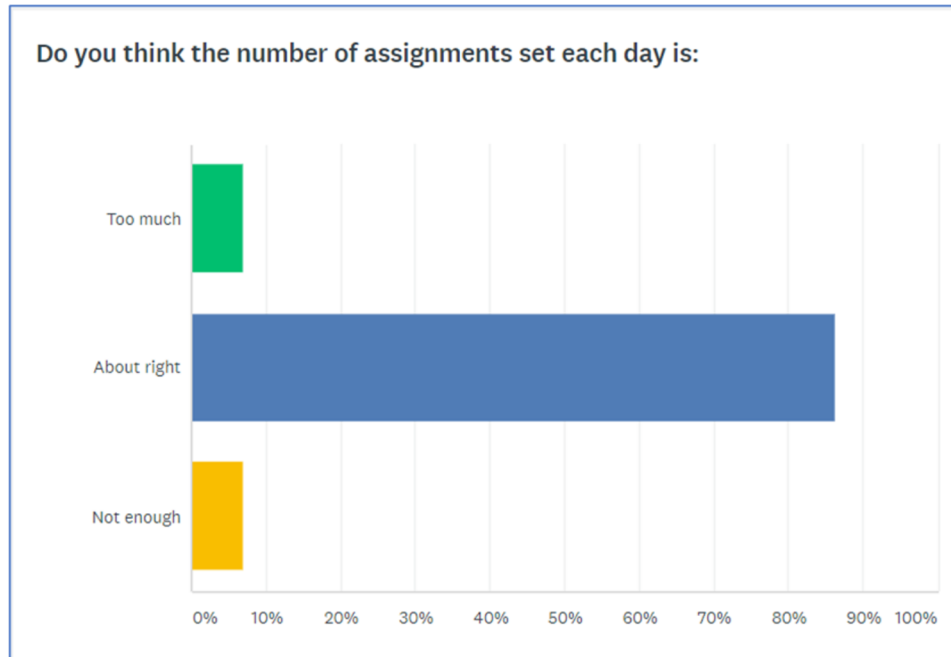
The teachers have been fantastic and it feels like we are all in this together which is great.

My son's teacher deserves a knighthood, my son is definitely a nightmare student 🤖

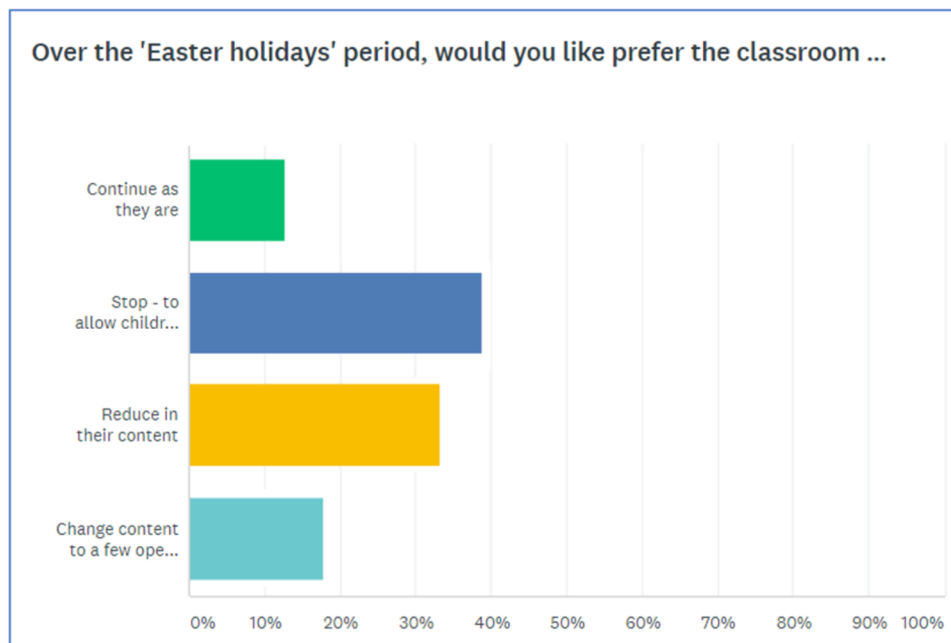
The survey was sent with a separate link for each year group so that we could analyse the feedback and make adjustments to individual year group online classrooms, as appropriate. The feedback across all year groups was extremely similar. This shows that our offer is very consistent in its delivery across the school. There were, of course, some minor variations in feedback. All data and comments have been analysed by year group and shared with teachers so that they can make minor adjustments to keep in line and learn from each other.

Many thanks too everyone for completing the survey and helping us to improve our offer.

The overall findings were as follows:



Across the school, we seem to have got the amount of work set just right; with 85% of all responses saying just right, and the remaining parents being equally split between too much/not enough.



Based on these responses we will be changing our use of online classrooms over the 2 week Easter holiday period. Parents have made it clear in the data shown above, and in their accompanying comments, that they want their children to have the 'normal break' from school work expectations over Easter. It is also not just the children who need a break. Staff too need a break - it has been quite emotionally draining for everyone and we are all need of a recharge. **Therefore, next week, there will be no online teacher presence on their Google Classrooms.** However, we do want to try to provide some support for those children and families who want to continue with school-work. Teachers will therefore be posting some open-ended project assignments for the two-week period for those who want to try them.

Google Classroom Online Security – important requirement

All children logging in to their on-line classroom are requested to **use a login that clearly identifies who they are.**

If usernames are not identifiable, then they may be muted or removed.

This is to ensure that we keep the platform safe for all to use.

Free school meals

The office have been working hard to set up systems for transferring Free School Meal monies to those eligible. There has been confusion nationally over who is eligible for these payments. To clarify:

- **These payments are not due** to families just because their child is in the Infants and receives universal free school meals.
- **These payments are due** to families who have actually applied for Free School Meals status. For further information on the qualifying criteria for this, please see our website: <https://willerbycarrlaneprimary.org.uk/free-school-meals/>

Parent wellbeing board

What can help your health and mental wellbeing? Public Health England has published some guidance to help everybody:

- consider how to connect with others: maintain relationships with people you trust and have contact with friends and family via telephone and video calls, or social media
- Keep a regular routine: think about how you can create and adapt positive new routines, try to engage in useful activities such as cooking or exercise.
- Manage your media and information intake: try to limit the time you spend watching and listening to the news, check the news at set times.
- Look after your sleep: try to maintain regular sleeping patterns and keep good sleep hygiene practices, e.g. avoid screens before bed.
- do something you enjoy: focus on a hobby or learn something new (there are lots of free courses online)
- keep your mind active: read, write, play games, do puzzles, paint.

For further information, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-the-public-on-the-mental-health-and-wellbeing-aspects-of-coronavirus-covid-19>

Activities for the family to do:

- get baking, try making Easter Egg Cookies
- indoor treasure hunt
- read and review a short story online and design a book cover to promote it
- write a family member a letter
- create animal fact sheets

WCLP DAILY

MR SMITH TO HAVE THE FIRST SCHOOL ON THE MOON



Mr Smith the brains behind moon school



How the moon school may look

Moon School Meals

BY SUMMER MILLINGTON

Lisa the cook says the new moon school will have exciting new meals including Moon Pie, Meteo-bites and Pluto punch. Chocolate bars will not be allowed in the school these include Mars Bars, Milky Ways and Galaxy Bars but they can have Saturn strawberries and Neptune nectarines.

All the out of this world food will be served in our new Planet Pizza Restaurant.



Moon pie on the menu

Moon School

BY SUMMER MILLINGTON

The idea of a school on the moon first came to Mr Smith when he was a young boy in the 50's when he watched the film Destination Moon.

His dream has always been to be an astronaut and travel to the moon. This moon school would make his dream come true.

The classes in the school are Mars, Jupiter, Earth, Venus, Saturn, Neptune and Uranus.

Lessons will include space walking for PE along with Jupiter Gymnastics. Mars maths, Vulcan fractions. Languages taught at the moon school will include Klingon, French and Martian zsfcbghfgh means hello.

Pupils will catch the school space bus rocket from top of normal school and land on top of planet pizza at the moon school. Buses will leave at 7am to get to school for 9am morning mars maths. So pupils should be up out of bed at 5 am Buses home will leave at 2.30pm to get home at 4.30pm.

Moon school sports teams will include rounders, tennis and badminton. These teams will play against other schools in the solar system including Venus Primary School, Pluto Primary and Kirkella St Andrews.

You can only go to the school if you get an invitation and know about it. You will get this in the middle of the night if will fly through your window and land on your bedside table.

...just one of many!!

Finally, Thank you — to Everyone

I have to say a massive well done to all our staff, whether they have been working in school to look after the children of our critical workers, or whether they have been at home, acting as online teachers. This includes teachers, teaching assistants and lunch-time, kitchen, caretaking, cleaning and admin staff. There has been so much to adapt to, in such a short space of time. It simply wouldn't have been possible without brilliant, collegiate team-work.

This also extends to our community of parents, carers and children. We realise that each family will be facing their own unique stresses, strains and anxieties - it makes the support we receive even more valued. Thank you. Keep safe and take care from everyone at WCLPS.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." - Helen Keller