



Website: <http://www.lowickholylslandschools.org.uk> Tel (01289)388268 E mail: Admin@lowick.northumberland.sch.uk

Headteacher : Mrs Rebecca Simpson rebecca.simpson@lowick.northumberland.sch.uk

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We have been 'Celebrating Differences' this week in school. We have taken the time to read a wide range of stories and fact books with the children about people from different parts of the world, different cultures, different looks and families and different beliefs. The important message for us to share with them is that everyone is precious and important. We are inspired by Martin Luther King Jr who said: "I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Part of having acceptance and care for people who look, sound or believe differently from ourselves is to understand them and find out about them. This helps us to empathise and recognise that despite differences we also have fundamental things in common. This is part of what education is all about. Our school vision is 'Journeying Together' based on the text "United in love and encouraged in heart." (Col 2). In these testing times, we are encouraged and supported by each other. Let's seek the best in each other and be kind.

Rebecca

Harvest Festival – spare a can, if you can!

We are celebrating Harvest Festival more quietly than usual and it will be our collective worship session next week. We appreciate that families have been hit hard by the lock-down and ongoing restrictions and we are keen not to ask you for money at this time. However, we would like to do something to support local foodbanks for people who are struggling.

Therefore, we are asking you to '**spare a can, if you can**'. If you have a spare can of beans for example (or anything appropriate for the food bank such as dried food or toilet-ries) we would be very grateful for your help. Any donations into school next week will be shared with Wooler Food Bank.



Reminders

Next Friday (23rd Oct) we are having our Halloween Party. Children are welcome to wear party clothes but please still send them in with appropriate coats as we will be outside for part of the day.



- Friday 23rd October - school stops for half term week
- Monday 2nd November - School restarts

This week in nursery

This week in nursery we have been looking at owls. We have looked at the story 'owl babies', made owl pancakes and owl pictures using craft pieces. We went to collect sticks to make our owl wings. We also listened to owl calls and found out that baby owls are called owlets.

As it was celebrating differences week we decided to look at the story book 'Elmer'. We talked about how we were different and what made us special. We then made Elmer pictures which we put in the window to show everybody.



Spellings

Year 1: 'nk'

Eg bank, think, honk, sunk, bunk

Year 2: the 'l' or 'el' sound spelt 'le' at the end of words

Eg table, apple, bottle, little, middle

Year 3: Words with the 'k' sound spelt 'ch'

Eg scheme, chorus, chemist, echo, character

Year 4: Homophones

Eg medal/meddle

mail/male

What will happen if we have another lockdown?

Unlike in March where things happened very quickly and we had to adapt as we went, we have now had time to consider what we would do if we have another lockdown. We are now in a position to offer access to a more interactive remote education system. Unlike in the summer term, we would be using the Seesaw app to set specific lessons for each child each day. We will be able to review the outcomes that afternoon, give feedback and adjust the following day's tasks to suit.

This is a much more structured way of delivering remote learning but it will help us ensure the children are accessing the same learning as their peers and to match more closely to our planned curriculum.

We have subscribed to **Classroom Secrets Kids** to allow children access to interactive English and maths lessons should we need to offer remote education in a future lockdown or a need for a child to self-isolate. This includes explanatory videos, activities and online quizzes which will allow us to see how your child is doing and identify any areas which need support. Your child will still need to be supervised by an adult for these lessons as they are too young to be left to get on with them on their own.

Please see the attached logon information for your child which will need to be kept in a safe place.

A summary of online logons we are using in school:

It seems like we have a lot of different logons at the moment but in order to fulfil our responsibilities it cannot be avoided. Please make sure you are able to log on to these essential apps.

Seesaw – this is the main app we will use to send work home and give feedback. Should we need to deliver remote education we will put links on this to Classroom Secrets Kids to direct you to each day's lesson as required. As we are now also using this for our virtual reading log hopefully you are all becoming more confident with this app.

Classroom Secrets Kids – this will give your child access to English and maths lessons. We will direct you to the appropriate lesson using Seesaw should we need to deliver a remote education for your child. **Please do not use except as directed by us as we also use this in school for some lessons and we need to ensure a flow of lessons.**

Sumdog – this is the app we are already using for weekly online homework for spellings and maths. We have used this app for a while and the children should be familiar with this from doing their homework each week.