



WEEKLY FOCUS

Friday 8th January 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

This New Year has not started in the way that many of us would have chosen, and the last minute changes to our plans have been challenging for all of us. However, the Horsell team has pulled together and we are now up and running both in school and remotely.

We have 6 'bubbles' of children in school who are completing the same work as those children working at home. These bubbles do not mix at all during the school day. We have set up these bubbles very carefully to keep everyone safe and parents should be aware that the deadline for requesting a key worker place has now passed.

Teachers have started working on a rota so that they continue to do some face-to-face teaching, and TAs are doing all that they can to support. Our teachers are getting to grips with using 'loom', the video software that is enabling teacher explanation and demonstration alongside the home learning tasks on SEESAW. Some of the team have not used the software before, so we have had one or two teething problems, but we are quickly getting to grips with how to deliver our teaching using this model.

Some parents may ask why we are not doing live lessons. We have very good reasons for not doing this. The recorded format allows you flexibility as to when to access the lessons, which is more appropriate for primary aged children who may not have their own device, and who may have to share with siblings. It also gives working parents more flexibility as to how and when they support their child. The SEESAW app allows us to look at the children's work, assess any misconceptions, and then record the next day's learning.

After our last period of lockdown we asked for parental feedback about the home learning and one piece of feedback was that some children had felt isolated from their friends. We are therefore setting up live zoom playtimes for children. These are not for learning purposes, but are intended as a bit of fun, and I hope that your child enjoys these sessions with their classmates!

I know that the coming weeks may feel tough and I know that there are members of our school community who are going through particularly challenging times. We also have parents who are working on the front line in the NHS, or working as carers, and I can only imagine the challenges that they are facing. As it says in Philippians 4:13: 'I can do all things through him who strengthens me.'

I hope that you have a restful weekend and I look forward to seeing you again on Monday – either virtually or in person.

Mrs Wand

**Applications for children starting Reception and Year 3 in September 2021 close next week, on 15th January.
For full information, visit: www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions**



Composer of the Month:

Edward Elgar

1857 - 1934

Edward Elgar learned to play the organ and violin at a young age, and composed his first short piece at the age of 10. His main love was composition, although his music was not successful until his Enigma Variations were published in 1899. This work made him famous. Other well-known pieces are the march, Pomp and Circumstance, and his Cello Concerto.

Elgar's Enigma Variations are a series of pieces (or 'variations') that describe Elgar's friends and family. One variation, called Nimrod, is one of the most famous pieces of English music and is often played on Remembrance Sunday.

Elgar is one of Mrs Wand's favourite composers and his violin concerto inspired her to become a violinist! We have posted some Youtube clips of his music on the website, in the 'children's zone' section.

Seesaw

We are currently 'archiving' work on Seesaw after one day which means that children cannot access work that has been set on a previous day. Moving forward, work will be archived every Friday. New work will continue to be set every day and will be posted up on seesaw by 8 00am.

Pupils are still expected to complete their work on the day that it is set and teachers are keeping a daily register of pupil engagement.

Optional writing activities with Jane Considine

Whilst the children are learning from home, some may find it hard to complete writing activities. Jane Considine is an English consultant who delivers training and lessons to teachers and children. In the last lockdown, many school used her lessons with great success.

From next week she will be delivering live lessons which can either be watched in 'live' mode or later at a time which is convenient. If you wish to complete these lessons we would love to see their work shared on our Twitter account- please tag us in with *@HorsellJunior* *Please do not submit to Seesaw as there is already a great deal of work being submitted.*

Mrs Brincombe will be monitoring the Twitter account and will be retweeting any submissions. You do not need to include their name or photo if you do not wish to. Even a great sentence or 'wow' word is something to celebrate!

Children engage best when there is a purpose to their writing and a chance to publish their work. Please ask your children if they would like to take part - please note this is completely optional and does not replace work set by our teachers.

I'm looking forward to seeing great writing!
Details on how to take part can be found on page 4.

Increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support disadvantaged children

A scheme has been introduced which allows schools to request temporary mobile data increases on certain networks for children who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Further information is available here:

<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data>

If increasing mobile data isn't a suitable option for some children, schools can also request 4G wireless routers.

Please contact the school office if you meet the above criteria and would like us to apply on your behalf.

Free Online Parenting Guides for Families in Surrey

Bringing up children is a lot of fun but can also have its challenges and understanding your child's emotional development can help to support your relationship and your child's behaviour.

Families living in Surrey can get access to FREE online guides that include top tips from childcare, education and NHS health experts. They are relevant to parents of all children, including those with special needs, autism, ADHD etc.

- Understanding your pregnancy, labour, birth and your baby
- Understanding your baby
- Understanding your child 0-19 years
- Understanding your teenager's brain
- Understanding your brain (for teenagers only!)

Register for free, unlimited access to the guides in text, audio and video formats and other languages including Urdu, Chinese and Polish. You'll need to add your postcode and use the code 'ACORN' when you are registering for the first time to obtain free access. The guides are designed as a course that you work through over a number of weeks and you can pick up where you left off each time you return to the guide.

Find out more and register on the Children and Family Health Surrey website at: www.childrenshealthsurrey.nhs.uk/services/free-online-guides-families

Woking Mind

Woking Mind, a local mental health charity that supports adults living in Surrey, has asked us to share this message with you:

Our Community Wellbeing Calls (CWC) Service, is a unique telephone support service for anyone that is struggling with low mood, loneliness, and anxiety. We can arrange to have a one-off or regular chat about any concerns or troubles at a time that suits. Our team can give advice, suggest coping techniques, and help people access a wide range of free support service offered by Woking Mind and others in the local area. This includes our counselling service, peer support groups or walking groups (subject to government guidelines). The service is available to all adults living in Surrey and no referral is required.

Horsell pupil wins design competition



Horsell were the winners of the Junior category for the Baylab lab coat competition 2020!

Students got involved in designing lab coats with what Science means to them.

This year they had over 35,000 entries from across the country and Isabella's year 6 2019-2020 design was chosen as the winner. Isabella won a set of 35 lab coats for the school and a box of Science goodies for herself. We are super proud of this achievement and look forward to using the coats in our lessons.



Feeling lonely?
Anxious?
Depressed?



We can all feel anxious for various reasons but when these feelings increase, they can have a big impact on our wellbeing.

Our **Community Wellbeing Calls** service may help you by having someone to talk to, regularly on the telephone, about your troubles or wellbeing. These calls are free and may be the lifeline you need to help life feel better.

wokingmind.org.uk
Registered charity no. 1096503

To find out more

Telephone **07850 340 739**

Email info@wokingmind.org.uk

**We will need your name and contact number to call you back.*

Service is available to all adults living in Surrey.



Optional additional lessons- Daily #LiveLessons with Jane Considine

Do not submit on Seesaw

Everything you need to know to take part in Jane's #LockdownLearning

Jane Considine will be teaching English #LiveLessons every week day between

Monday 11th January and Friday 12th February.

The intention of these lessons is to help parents and teachers during the latest lockdown. The lessons relate to Jane Considine's English Unit Plans and there will be three units of work taught during this lockdown.

Teaching dates

January 11th to January 21st - Narrative - The Secret of Black Rock

January 22nd to February 2nd - Non-fiction - The Day The Crayons Quit (Persuasive letter writing)

February 3rd to February 12th - Narrative - The Lost Thing Animation

Key information

- The lessons will be live streamed every day on our YouTube and Facebook page, beginning at 9:45am (GMT) and finishing at 10:45am (GMT).
- You will be able to watch the lessons after they have been streamed live on either YouTube or Facebook and they will stay on our channels indefinitely.
- The lessons are suitable for primary pupils, Years 1 to 6.
- Both parents and teachers can work through the live lessons with their children.
- Please subscribe to our YouTube channel [here](#) and please like our Facebook page [here](#) so you can be kept up to date with the latest information on Jane's #LiveLessons.
- The Secret of Black Rock unit plan is part of our free unit plan subscription, which you can sign up to [here](#).
- The Day The Crayons Quit and The Lost Thing Animation unit plans are part of our paid unit plan subscription, which can be purchased [here](#).
- It is not essential that you download the PDF unit plans, however we do highly recommend it to help with the teaching and learning.
- Due to the nature of remote teaching, there will be no experience days and no independent writing days included in Jane's #LiveLessons, only Sentence Stacking days (which is different to the downloadable plans, as these include experience days and independent writing days).
- The lessons will run as if you were teaching them, instead Jane will be teaching them live on YouTube and Facebook.
- You are not required to purchase the books used in the unit plans, however we do recommend purchasing them as they are great reads.
- Please note, due to the ever changing situation of the covid-19 pandemic, these dates are subject to change.

Submitting work

Every day we will choose three sentences to help build our #SentenceStack. To submit your child's or pupils' work please send their work to us via a message on **Facebook** or by tagging us and using the below hashtags on **Twitter**. Don't forget to include the child's name and age in case their work is selected. Hashtags for submission:

#SuperSentenceStacking

#MrsC

#EnglishWithMrsC

#LockdownLearning

@HorsellJunior (so we can celebrate their work too!)