



# RICHARD TAYLOR CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY



## Spring Lockdown 2021

Like everyone I was surprised by the speed of the introduction of the latest lockdown announced on Monday 4th January at 8pm. We appreciate the challenge which this presents for every family and the ability to re-open on Wednesday, after 24 hours of re-organisation, is a tribute to both staff and parents who showed patience and determination to tackle the challenges ahead. You may have already seen that in the first three days on seesaw we had 2,964 pieces of work with 5,404 responses from teaching staff which is a phenomenal achievement.

You will also be aware that the number of key worker and vulnerable children in school is double the previous lockdown in June and 10 times the number from March 2020. We have written to all parents at the end of last week regarding the challenges that the latest rules present. We will be reviewing our class structures based on parental responses at the start of the week beginning 11th January and will provide an update on any changes required as soon as possible.

Our highest priority will continue to be to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone associated with the school. There still remains the very real risk of a bubble being forced to close for 10 days if we record a positive case of the virus which we want to avoid if at all possible.

## Key Dates

The sudden nature of the current lockdown means that all planned events have been put on hold. We will send out updated information regarding events in school in due course.

### Inside this issue:

Lockdown Updates	1
Remote Learning	1
Kitchen News	2
Sports News	2
Environmental News	3
Gardening News	4
BBC Schools Programmes	5
Funclub	6

## Remote Learning Update

We are working hard to ensure that our remote learning provision provides the widest range of high-quality learning opportunities. The children working at home will have the same access to learning as the children who have to attend school. If your child is continuing to attend school there is no need for them to complete the work set on seesaw for remote learning. They will have done the same activities in school.

From Monday 11th January, worship times will be posted on both seesaw and the school's YouTube page for everyone to access.

We will be re-sending Teams passwords to parents during this week starting with families of children in KS2. This will allow us to prepare for live Team Chats with children accessing remote learning. Look out for more details soon.

We are also working hard to get hold of the laptops promised by the government to support remote learning. As soon as we receive them we will be contacting families requiring additional support. We have also begun to send out hard copies of work in learning packs for those families who request them. Please let us know via your class email if there is anything that we can do to support you with your child's remote learning.

## Friends News

**friends**  
of RICHARD TAYLOR SCHOOL

The Friends have put fundraising events on hold at the start of the Spring term. They have asked me to remind all parents that they also offer a prayer support group for anyone who needs the spiritual support of prayer. Any prayer requests can be emailed to [prayeratrichardtaylor@gmail.com](mailto:prayeratrichardtaylor@gmail.com). All requests are treated confidentially.

## Kitchen News

We know that in the last lockdown many families enjoyed the opportunity to bake together. Jo's recipes were a great hit and I am delighted that she has agreed to publish more recipes. The first recipe is for smarties flapjack. We look forward to seeing the results of your baking published on seesaw; happy baking everyone!

### **Smarties Flapjack**

250g Porridge Oats  
125g Butter  
125g Sugar  
4-5 tablespoons syrup  
1 Tube Smarties



### Method

Heat oven at 180c gas 6

Put the butter in a pan and melt

Gradually stir in the syrup until runny and mixed with the butter

Mix in the oats and stir well until they are all well covered, if it feels a little dry add a little more syrup, (it helps to get the syrup out of bottle if you put the bottle in a warm water to soften)

Remove mixture from heat when all mixed in

Grease a 20cm by 20 cm dish with a knob of butter rubbing round the sides

Stir the smarties into the mixture and then put into the greased dish and smooth the top

Bake in the oven for approximately 15 – 20 minutes

Remove from the oven to cool

When cool but not cold, cut into pieces and remove from the dish. Please note if you leave until it is cold it is harder to get out of the dish.

## Sports News

The school has extended it's partnership with the team at PE challenges. It is a fantastic way of keeping your children active and motivated to achieve the challenges set for them.

Class teachers will promote the challenges for each class via their seesaw page. If you have lost your individual login to the site please contact your child's teacher using your class email.



## Environmental News

I am delighted to be able to inform you that the school has become a share partner in the Long lands Common Project. Using voluntary contributions, we have purchased two blocks of shares and are looking forward to exploring the ways in which our children can make best use of such a special and precious local resources, to learn more about how they can play their part in protecting the environment for future generations

### Face Masks



We appreciate the support of parents in wearing masks or face coverings on site and maintaining social distancing, however we are asking all parents to consider again if they are able to educate their children from home. We want to play our part in reducing the spread of the virus and giving the vaccine role out the time that it needs to allow us to return to the way of life that we all enjoyed before the outbreak.

**BUY SHARES NOW**  
IN  
**LONG LANDS COMMON**  
A NEW  
**COMMUNITY WOODLAND**  
FOR HARROGATE & KNARESBOROUGH  
- TAKE OWNERSHIP OF OUR  
GREEN SPACES - PROTECT THE  
GREENBELT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS  
SHARE OFFER NOW OPEN @  
[www.longlandscommon.org](http://www.longlandscommon.org)

### Prayer from Emma James - Youth Worker

Emma has been a huge supporter of the school during the previous lockdowns. She has shared this prayer with us as a school community, we hope that you will be able to find the time to use it.

Dear Father

As we go through this difficult time together, thank you that you are with us: in front of us, behind us and beside us so we don't need to be frightened.

Thank you that you always listen to us and that nothing is too small to share with you and nothing is too big to leave out.

Give us peace and joy in our homes during lockdown and help us to be kind to everyone so that we can spread your love around our families and friends at this time, Amen.

### Lollipop Bob

Many of the families still coming to school will have noticed that Bob has not been in his usual position on the zebra crossing. Don't worry, Bob is safe and well. The school is working with the road crossing team at NYCC to make sure that we look after our very special lollipop man. Bob passes on his best wishes to everyone and would like you to know that he is missing you and is looking forward to getting back to his job helping you all safely across the road.



### Yoga



With the weather conditions forcing everyone indoors for longer periods of time, Yoga for children is a great option for making sure that your children can enjoy physical exercise in limited amounts of space. The link below is well worth exploring. Coverdale Class regularly enjoy Yoga as part of their weekly exercise.

<https://www.kidsyogastories.com/chair-yoga-poses/>



## Worship News

We recognise the importance of making sure that everyone can access our special worship times. This term we will be thinking about our school values and how they can help us through difficult times. Worships will be published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays using both the seesaw library and our YouTube page. If you are struggling to access the worships, please let us know. This week the theme for worship is Friendship.

## Mr Groves Gardening News

There is nothing much growing outside at the moment but if you have a windowsill you can always grow a pot of winter lettuce salad leaves. You will need a simple container, a used clean yoghurt pot or margarine tub with holes in the bottom, some multipurpose compost and a packet of lettuce seed. Fill the container with compost and gently firm, sprinkle the lettuce seed thinly on the top and cover with a thin layer of compost. You will now add a little water, seeds can't germinate without water, be careful not to add too much. Put a layer of cling film over the top of the container, to help retain the moisture and put on a sunny windowsill and watch them grow! Don't forget to put the container on a plate, or something similar, to avoid any water damage to the windowsill and take the cling film off when the seeds germinate. Keep the seeds watered and keep turning the container round so all the seedlings can get their share of day light. How about making your own watering can, from a clean plastic milk carton? Get a grownup to put some holes in the cap, fill half full with water, screw the cap back on tightly and you now have your own watering can!



## Make Your January Happier.

[https://www.actionforhappiness.org/media/954757/january\\_2021](https://www.actionforhappiness.org/media/954757/january_2021).

The school is very aware that the mental health and wellbeing of the children is our number one priority during the current lockdown. The action for happiness organisation have produced a make your January happier

calendar with ideas and activities for each day in January. There are some great ideas which are just as relevant for adults as for children of any age. I particularly like the suggestion for Wednesday 6th January which was to 'take five minutes to sit still and breathe'. If you are interested in knowing more follow the link above or take a look at the calendar

### ACTION CALENDAR: HAPPIER JANUARY 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p>"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony" - Gandhi</p>				<p>1 Find three good things to look forward to this year</p>	<p>2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself</p>	<p>3 Do a kind act for someone else to help to brighten their day</p>
<p>4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for in life and why</p>	<p>5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths</p>	<p>6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe</p>	<p>7 Learn something new and share it with others</p>	<p>8 Say positive things to the people you meet today</p>	<p>9 Get moving. Do something physically active (ideally outdoors)</p>	<p>10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why</p>
<p>11 Switch off all your tech 2 hours before bedtime</p>	<p>12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat</p>	<p>13 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes</p>	<p>14 Take a different route today and see what you notice</p>	<p>15 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today</p>	<p>16 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful</p>	<p>17 Contribute positively to a good cause or your community</p>
<p>18 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough</p>	<p>19 Get back in contact with an old friend you miss</p>	<p>20 Go to bed in good time and give yourself time to recharge</p>	<p>21 Take a small step towards an important goal</p>	<p>22 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone</p>	<p>23 Plan something fun and invite others to join you</p>	<p>24 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment</p>
<p>25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down</p>	<p>26 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better</p>	<p>27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside</p>	<p>28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently</p>	<p>29 Use one of your personal strengths in a new way</p>	<p>30 Count how many people you can smile at today</p>	<p>31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future</p>

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS**

www.actionforhappiness.org  
Happier · Kinder · Together

Learn more about this month's theme at [www.actionforhappiness.org/happier-january](https://www.actionforhappiness.org/happier-january)

## BBC Schools Programmes

BBC TV has announced that it is to help children keep up with their studies during the latest lockdown by broadcasting lessons on BBC Two and CBBC, as well as online.

The BBC Primary teach website also has hundreds of resource pages to support children across the primary age range.

The address for this page is <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/primary/zd7p47h>



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

From Monday 11th January:

The CBBC channel will have a three-hour block of primary school programmes from 9am. This will include programmes from BBC Live Lessons and BBC Bitesize Daily, as well as Our School, Celebrity Supply Teacher, Horrible Histories and Operation Ouch.

The first programmes to be broadcast on Monday 11th January at 9am will be a series of bitesize programmes focussing on maths and history, followed by Geri Horner, who is the celebrity supply teacher, delivering lessons on creative writing.

## Woodfield and Bilton Library

For any parents looking to expand the range of books which their children can access during the lockdown. The local library service are promoting a library book loan delivery service.

The details of this can be found in the poster attached and on the school's seesaw home notice board.



## Home Library Service

*Books and more delivered to your door*



**A FREE service for people of all ages who are unable to get to the library or carry books themselves**



Contact your local library for more information or call  
Tel: 01609 533800 Email: [libraries@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@northyorks.gov.uk)

## Mental Health and Physical Wellbeing

Please remember, at a time of such huge pressure, that the school has a dedicated page on its website to provide support and sign posts for parents struggling to support their child's mental health.

We are also very aware of the additional financial pressures on all families. If you need direct support in the form of a food parcel, please contact the school office where your request will be dealt with in confidence.

We are here to help in any way that we can.



## Important Information from Fun Club

Since the short notice of the latest lockdown, we have been liaising with our partners at Funclub, as we look at what the information provided by the government means for wraparound care.

You will see from the letter below that Funclub have taken the decision to close for January. We fully understand and support the very difficult decision taken by the team. We are proud of our partnership and very happy to work alongside a company which delivers such high quality care for our children. We will miss Ashley and her team and look forward to welcoming them back in happier and safer times. See below the letter which Funclub have distributed to parents.

### **Funclub January closure notice – January 2021**

I am writing to inform you that Funclub will be closing at all sites for the whole of January. We will review the situation the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> Jan and inform you of the position from 1<sup>st</sup> Feb onwards.

All January invoices will be cancelled on your account over the coming days. We have made this decision due to the severity of the current covid situation, and the fact that to operate Funclub we need to make additional daily 'bubbles' to those already in place at school thus bringing an additional mix for all those involved, of course with this comes a higher risk of transmission within the community. At this critical time, we feel it irresponsible to open a service which brings an additional mix of people to that already posed within the schools.

We fully understand the implications of this decision, it has not been taken lightly but made after carefully considering advice from relevant professionals, statistics on local rates of infection and research on a variety of models of opening the service. At this current time we feel it necessary to remain closed as we are unable to find a suitable model of opening which we feel secure in offering.

To support working families during this lockdown the government have allowed a childcare bubble to be formed with one other household to help with childcare, we really hope this means that families can work together and access the support they need in a much more contained and therefore safer way to that which Funclub can provide at this time.

We will be in touch the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> January, in the meanwhile, take care.

