**Newsletter**

**8th January 2021**

# **Message from Mrs Hird**

To say it has been a turbulent week would be a bit of an understatement but, as I’m sure you will agree, our fantastic team have adapted to a national lockdown, remote learning, key worker provision and snow with their usual enthusiasm and dedication! I feel so fortunate to have such a committed staff team and want to publicly extend my thanks to them for being so amazing!

I must also say a huge thank you to you and your children for your patience and resilience this week. It has been wonderful to hear how quickly the children have adjusted to yet another ‘new normal’ and I know their teachers have loved receiving photographs and work and seeing the children either in school or on Zoom calls.

Our blended learning offer is slightly different in comparison to the 2020 lockdown and our teachers will be sharing their plans with you shortly, if they haven’t done so already. We hope that all children will engage as fully as possible with their learning and join in with any Zoom calls set up by the staff. However, we also appreciate that each family has their own individual circumstances so please do not feel under pressure to do everything if you are struggling. We are here to help, so please let a member of staff know if you require any support.

Finally, thank you for your understanding. When I was hurriedly sending out emails on Monday evening, following the government announcement, I was genuinely touched by the supportive comments coming in from parents. This isn’t a situation that anyone would ever have hoped to be in but I know that we will come through this together. If the last twelve months have shown us anything, they have demonstrated the incredible power that comes through being part of a community and I am very grateful to be part of this one.

Take care, stay safe and please do get in touch if there is anything I or the staff can do to help.

**Mrs Hird**

# **Health and Safety**

# We are continuing to follow our Covid risk assessment for all children accessing the key worker provision. Thank you to parents accessing the provision for social distancing and wearing masks.

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# **From the classes**

# Explorers - Explorers have shown such an enthusiastic start to their learning this week, whether it be at home or in our school. Although our classroom feels very quiet without most of our children here, we have loved saying hello at our story and phonics sessions online. Keep up the brilliant work Explorers and well done for showing how resilient you are! **Mrs Mitchell**

# Adventurers -While it has been the most unusual week, the learning in Adventurer Class has been fantastic as always. The children have really engaged with their work and have produced some lovely writing linked to Pop Art (our art topic). Here are just a few of my favourite sentences from this week's writing:

# The balloon got free from her hands flying up and up taken by the blustery wind....... (Piper)

# She was busy playing with a balloon when she lost her mum. (Lottie)

# She would let it fly away and hope someone would come to her rescue and get her out of this  dark, desolate place in her life. (Sam W)

# The words imprinted behind where she stood was a mere shard of her thoughts. (Owen)

# If you were wondering what the strange noises were yesterday, the children have been completing Personal Best PE challenges. We will continue trying to improve our scores over the next few weeks before sending them to North Yorkshire Sport who will give certificates to the highest scores and biggest improvements.  **Mr Russell**

# **Teacher in charge roles**

# As you may be aware, we made two temporary, fixed term appointments to our teacher in charge positions last year, with Mr Russell starting at Glaisdale in January 2020 and Mrs Walley joining Castleton in September 2020. Both positions had to be filled at speed due to unforeseen time constraints and it was therefore agreed with the school governors, Mr Russell and Mrs Walley at the time that the roles would be re-advertised in the spring term, in order for them to become permanent from September 2021.

# Both Mr Russell and Mrs Walley will be encouraged to apply for the posts but we will also be opening the positions up to external candidates in order to allow for a full and fair recruitment process and to ensure we employ the best possible person for each of the roles

# **Contacting us**

# Mrs Bennett will be continuing to cover all office, secretarial and administrative duties for the school as usual, over the lockdown period but will be working more remotely for some of the time. Therefore we would request all non-urgent contact to be made by emailing admin.glaisdale@yeat.co.uk where we will either email or call you back when we are able to do so. Calls between 9am and 3pm may not be answered whilst staff in school are running our keyworker provision - please bear with us and leave a message if urgently required. Alternatively, we are able to receive instant Facebook direct messages linked to our page @Glaisdaleprimaryschool