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**Message from Mrs Hird**

Thank you for your continued support with our blended learning offer. Your child's class teacher will have provided you with details of their daily timetable and the overview of our offer can be found on the 'Covid' page of our website. It has been lovely to see so many photographs and pieces of work sent through via either Tapestry or Class Dojo and I know the staff have enjoyed engaging with pupils via Zoom.

We believe that our offer is a strong one, giving children the opportunity to access learning relating to a wide range of curriculum areas. We encourage all pupils to engage as fully as possible. If you are experiencing any difficulties or would like any support with your child's learning, please do let their class teacher know and we will be in touch.

Once again, I would like to extend my thanks to our incredible staff team, who continue to work flexibly and enthusiastically in these challenging times. I am sure you will agree that they are doing a fantastic job!

Take care,

*Mrs Hird*

**Years 5 and 6 Peat Rigg Residential**

It is with great reluctance that we have had to take the decision to cancel our shared residential to Peat Rigg in May with Y5/6.  This decision has not been taken lightly and we are fully aware of the huge disappointment for our children. However, we feel that it is highly unlikely that we will be able to mix 5 schools together at that time. We will instead seek some other exciting activities to take part in, guidance and risk assessments permitting.

**Key worker provision**

Your child may have mentioned that staff are wearing face masks at certain points during the day. This is due to a change in our risk assessment, the updated version of which can be found on the 'Covid' page of our website. In line with the guidance for primary schools, staff will not be wearing masks whilst teaching or supporting children in class.

**Deadline for Primary School Place is Today**

If you, or anyone you know, have a child due to start school in September then the deadline to apply for a place is today. All the information needed is at: [www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-admissions](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-admissions)

**Message from the Chair of the Trust**

I hope that you and your families are staying safe. As we go into the second week of schooling post-Christmas, I hope you feel that your needs as a parent/carer have been considered and you are confident in the commitments we have made to both the quality of your child’s education and to their health, safety and wellbeing.

YEAT schools received DfE guidance late last week and have worked tirelessly to ensure that provision offered is equal to or better than the requirements set out in the documents.

In balancing a) the need to provide places for our most vulnerable learners and children from households where only one parent or carer needs to be considered a key worker to qualify for a school place, and b) our commitment to ensuring that our schools operate safely for all staff, we believe we now have a solution.

To maintain nuancing appropriate to each school and each class within a school, our proposal is that the number of students taught on site is to be determined by the size of room. In taking this approach rather than simply capping at a set number, classes should not feel crowded and staff and students will have space to operate at a distance. Headteachers will of course provide a fuller picture and how this relates to your child.

***[The number of pupils requiring key worker provision at our school are sufficiently low at present that we will be continuing our provision as it currently stands. As stated previously, if you no longer need to take up a space, or are able to move to part time provision, please do let me know. Mrs Hird].***

These are challenging times and there are no simple answers to the complex issues we need to address collectively as team YEAT. I suspect that for some time yet our schools will need to operate mindful of health concerns relating to COVID. As you have been doing, please maintain an open and honest dialogue with staff who are always keen to reach mutually agreeable solutions within the rules set out by DfE .

Can I thank you all once again for your willingness to work in partnership with the schools and only taking up places that are absolutely required. By helping us to keep student numbers at manageable levels we are better placed to keep everyone healthy and safe, which I am sure you will agree, must be our first priority.

Mathew Brown

Chair of Trust Board

**Snow**

Thank you for your patience with us during the snowy weather. The decision to close school is never an easy one to make, particularly as we know our key workers are depending on us. However, the vast majority of our staff live beyond the village (some travelling quite a distance to get to school) and we have to take into account the road conditions and staff: pupil ratios in order to keep everyone as safe as possible.

In situations where we do make the decision to close, we will endeavour to ring parents accessing the provision at the earliest possible opportunity and will also post messages via Facebook. If the closure happens during the school day, please note that we will always ensure that pupils are adequately supervised until someone arrives to collect them. **Please could we ask all parents currently accessing the key worker provision to ensure that we have your most up to date contact details, both for first thing in the morning and during the school day.**

**Ainthorpe Educational Trust**

We are thrilled to have been awarded £350 by the Ainthorpe Educational Trust and would like to offer our thanks to the committee for their continuing support. We are spending this on new RE resources.

**News from the Classes**

**Acorn** children, both at home and in school, have worked very hard this week.  We are settling into our new style of learning whilst also improving our ICT skills at the same time!  This week has seen Zoom sessions really get going.  Each morning we check the weather around the community with our ‘Remote Weather Correspondents’.  It is interesting seeing how it changes in the region.  Our two daily Zoom sessions are such a lovely way of getting together and even allow for a chat time before our afternoon story.

This week we have worked hard continuing to build up the story of Tiddler with actions. We have had some fabulous clips sent in.  Please keep up the good work and keep practising, we are nearly at the end of the story. There have been lots of other wonderful and varied literacy activities taking place this week involving researching information about fish, labelling fish, making registers and looking at how we can improve sentences.

We have had two great PE sessions with Lewis and Jess.  It is amazing how everyone is adapting to the situation and great that our children can still keep active.  A hot topic at the moment! Add in geography, music, science and art and you can see that it really has been a busy and productive week.

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**Star of the Week at home** is **Layla** for working so, so hard and engaging in all the activities. Fabulous pictures and writing.

**Star of the Week in School** is **Alfie** **F-T** for amazing reading which has really taken off.  Well done for reading without blending.

The children in **Oaks** have worked hard this week returning some fantastic work via Dojo. It has been brilliant to see their actual handwriting and that they are taking pride in their presentation too.

We managed to get the whole class zooming together and it is absolutely wonderful to see your faces each day as we all learn new skills (especially computing!)

****The children at school have enjoyed some time in the garden and playing in the snow too.

**Star of the week at home** is **Effie** for working well with all her tasks.

**Star of the week in school** is **Lauren** for working independently to access her work and complete it well.