

Willowbrook Weekly Newsletter: Friday 1st May

Another week has passed and we know how hard you are all working to keep your families safe and occupied. We love seeing the photos that some of you have sent in or have posted on Twitter. Our Twitter account is a great place to see some of the things happening at school and a good way of keeping some contact with us. Don't worry if you do not have a twitter account though; all the photos are on the website too. The staff love chatting with the children on the phone, but are having trouble getting through to some families. This could be because they could come up as number withheld on your device... please answer - it is only us trying to stay in touch!

Requesting a School Place

If you think you need a school place for your children and we have not already agreed their attendance, you need to do the following:

- Call the office and we will send you a form to complete stating that you are a keyworker and giving us contact details;
- We will then call you back and confirm that you meet the criteria and your children can come in;
- You then go to the school website and use the online booking form to request places.

Places are only for children who meet the criteria set by the government. If your child has an EHCP, a social worker or is a young carer, we will already have spoken to you. The other criteria is being a key worker.

It is vitally important that children are only sent to school when there is no one else to care for them at home. The overriding message from government is still that the best place for children is at home.

Active Rainbow Challenge

For those of you who'd like to participate, we are setting you the challenge of creating your own 'rainbow photo collage' of being active! Each day (starting Monday 4th May), can be a different colour of the rainbow, lasting the whole week. The idea is we get to see you being active – each time wearing a new colour!

For example, you could wear a red top while taking part in Joe Wicks and the next day you might wear a blue coat during a walk and so on... You could then email us or tweet pictures of your rainbow collage and we will give out prizes for some of our favourites. If you do email your images to school, can you please let us know whether you are happy for us to tweet the picture.

Back Gate

Please note that we are not using this entrance to the school at all during the partial closure.

Devon Wildlife Trust

We have had a message from Paul and Emily thanking everyone for the entries last week.

This week on the website the focus is mammals so the attached competition is related to that topic. <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/mammals> Updated daily on our Facebook page

Help is Out There!

During these unsettling times, you may have health and wellbeing concerns about your baby or child and be unsure how to get the help you need.

Our local health visitors are still here to help via [NHS ChatHealth; a confidential text messaging service](#). If you are a parent or carer and want confidential advice and support about your baby or child aged up to 19 years old, then you can text a health visitor on: 07520 631 721.

They are available 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and can offer help on a wide range of issues such as mental health, family health and development, sleeping and feeding routines and adjusting to parenting. [For more information visit the NHS chat health website](#).

Talkworks

This is an organisation that you can call for help if you are feeling very anxious or depressed.

It is a free, confidential, NHS talking therapy service for adults and you can contact them on 0300 555 3344.

Devon Library Services

We have had some information, which I have put below about the online resources available to everyone for free from libraries in Devon.

We have a range of free resources that all library members can access online:

- Download and stream free eBooks, eAudioBooks and eMagazines, with more than 3,500 titles on [Overdrive](#) (eBooks and eAudiobooks), including a range of 'beginner reads' for children in the early stages of learning to read, and 1,000 unlimited use eAudiobooks through [RB Digital Devon](#) or [RB Digital Torbay](#)
- A selection of eMagazines are available on [RB Digital Devon](#) or [RB Digital Torbay](#)
- A range of eAudiobooks via [BorrowBox](#)
- Online reference resources at [Devon](#) and [Torbay](#) Libraries including AncestryUK
- fun online content and live streaming events via social media. Check out individual library Facebook pages for more information

Community Builder Update: Mincinglake and Whipton

Follow this link: <https://mailchi.mp/6508880d14ab/community-builder-covid-19-update-3-mincinglake-and-whipton>

Finally...

Please be kind to yourselves about 'home learning' – we do not expect you to get through everything every day. The most important thing is your family's wellbeing. The work is there to give the children the chance to keep their basic skills ticking over. Please do let us know if you have any feedback via email...good or otherwise. We are new to this way of working and want to make it work for everyone.