

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back to the final half term of this extraordinary academic year. While the last 11 weeks have been very different, we have all developed various new skills and shown an amazing ability to adapt to different situations by demonstrating resilience, compassion, and perseverance. Together we have tackled lock down and continued to ensure that the children of our community receive the best possible education and support. However, I fully appreciate that as the weeks pass it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain routines and motivation so I encourage you to show great resolve and do your best to ensure that the students stick with their work schedules and do their best to complete their school work.

We all look forward to the day that we welcome all of our students back to school.

Mrs Sonia Taylor
Headteacher



NOTICES

County Lines - Know The Signs

West Mercia Police are running a campaign to raise awareness of County Lines. They have been highlighting that County Lines drug gangs are exploiting young and vulnerable people across communities, even during lockdown. They are coercing them to sell drugs as well as get involved in other types of crime, using sophisticated grooming techniques which can often result in control through fear and violence. Know the signs. For further information [click here](#).

PE & Sports Apprentice

An exciting role has become available within The Marches Academy Trust for a PE & Sports Apprentice. The role will see the apprentice support both Lower Heath C of E Primary School and Tilstock C of E Primary School, with the possibility of travel to other schools within the Trust. For full details please [click here](#). Applications close 21/06/2020.

School return

You may have seen the announcement by the Prime Minister stating that secondary school students will not begin their phased return until Monday 15th June 2020. However, we will be opening on Monday 15th June following the same plans.

Due to a change in the guidance for secondary schools we will need to amend the date and time that your child will be attending on week 1 of the phase return. We will confirm this with you by the end of Tuesday 9 June and new timetables for the remaining three weeks of term will be issued by Friday 19th June.

If your child requires school transport we will call you the week before with details of the times that the bus/taxi will collect your child and the health and safety guidance that will need to be observed while using the transport.

Our school reception is open so please do call if you have any questions. Alternatively, you can email your child's form tutor.

Exciting Initiative Starting From September



Careers Quiz

Encourage your child to take part in our Trust-wide careers related trivia quiz, which school Careers Adviser Mrs Murphy has put together. Please note that the link expires on Thursday 25th June. [Click here](#) to participate.

Teaching & Learning

I hope that the half-term break has been kind to you all and you coping well as families during the ongoing measures. I appreciate that you'll have concerns and questions about how you can be supporting your children at this time, so I hope that you find the two simple tips below helpful. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please just ask your teachers; we will be very happy to help.

Literacy and the importance of talk

Much is said about the importance of literacy - rightly so. However, this can be a cause of worry sometimes, especially as people can think that this relates purely to technical issues of reading and writing.

Well, in the words of one study, 'talk is the foundation of literacy.' Please do not underestimate the importance of talk at home. Your child listening to you and talking with you forms a vital part in their literacy development. Make the time to just talk. Go on a walk and leave phones behind. Parents invariably know many things that children don't (that's what makes them always right) so be brave and actually teach your child something new, whether it be about your family history, your own memories and experiences at school, an interest or hobby you have ... it doesn't really matter. The point is that children benefit from these conversations because they learn the skills of listening, forming and asking questions, and applying words in a new way.

Effective questions

Whilst children are learning a range of new things at school - including things that as parents we might find daunting and challenging - it is easy to keep questions simple. Basic questions, such as those that start with 'what' or 'when', form the basis of understanding, because they check on key facts. However, if you want to support your child to the next level, ask them questions that start with the words 'who', 'why' and 'how', and include the words 'would/could', 'will' and 'might'. For example, 'What is the date the First World War started?' is a basic level question with only one answer, but asking a question like, 'How might Britain have avoided being involved in the First World War?' will prompt thoughts in new directions. The best thing about this level of questioning for you as parents is that you don't need the answers; you are merely supporting your child to talk about their learning and develop their literacy.

Mr James Pledger

Competitions & Challenges

MAT competition: Do you see yourself as a future leader – an MP, a member of local government or someone with world-shifting ideas that need to be shared? SJT have created a competition, inviting short video submissions from young people across the county on the topic of 'improving the lives of young people in Shropshire'. We want to hear your views. How can we make our county an even better place to be? The competition will be judged by Karen Bradshaw Acting Chief Executive of Shropshire Council. Guidelines:

- Videos should be one to two minutes long so think very carefully about the messages you want to share. Film in landscape if possible.
- We suggest you deliver your speech/presentation in a formal style.
- You could consider issues you are passionate about such as: the environment, education, health or facilities for young people.
- Videos should be emailed to barnett.c@mmt.co.uk and campbell.c@mmt.co.uk

Closing date: Monday 22 June.

History competition: The Historical Association are running a 'Write Your Own Historical Fiction Competition 2020'. Winning students will each receive a cash prize, engraved paperweight and a year's free subscription to the Historical Association for their school. Entries close Friday 26 June 2020, click [here](#) for more details.

Geography competition: The Royal Geographical Society are running their Young Geographer of the year competition, asking students to submit entries based around the theme of 'the world beyond my window', full competition details can be found [here](#). **The deadline for receipt of all entries is Tuesday 30 June 2020 at 5.00pm.**

History competition: Focus Games Ltd are challenging all age groups to create a unique piece of work, drawing, poster, short story, video or artwork in order to celebrate 100 Great Black Britons and their legacy. Entries close 30 September 2020, click [here](#) for more information.

WEBSITE QUICK LINKS

Please click on the following useful links to find out more.

- [News](#).
- [Home Learning](#)
- [Term Dates](#).



FACEBOOK

Please follow us on Facebook [@GroveSchoolShropshire](#) for supplementary home learning ideas, news, competitions and feel good stories. We also encourage you to share your ideas and interact with our posts!

For news from across the Trust, why not also follow [@MarchesAcademyTrust](#).

