



## Hyde Park Infant School

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29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents,

There has been much to celebrate this week with positive responses to learning online in Educare and at home. I have received lovely pictures, videos and poems relating to my Head Teacher challenges for the sandwich poem and also the AA Milne poem entitled the King's Breakfast. I would also like to share with you my personal joy of becoming a Grandma as baby Florence arrived on the 27<sup>th</sup> January weighing 7lb and 14oz and is now safely home with my daughter, Rosie and her husband. During these Covid times I am particularly grateful for pictures and video calls as it will be some time before it is safe to give them all a cuddle.

### Reading opportunities

Mrs Crawley has been arranging access for more reading opportunities for all the children (school have paid) so I will insert information for you below: This opportunity will be open for a year so please do make full use of the books so that your child can read and reread, first with your support and then independently so that they can build up confidence, speed and skills so that their reading competencies will 'open doors' for them as learners.

Please see details below from Mrs Crawley.

Having received positive feedback from parents who have accessed the free eBooks on Oxford Owl, we have subscribed to the Oxford Owl Infant eBook Library for the next 12 months. This will enable children to access 406 levelled eBooks to further enhance their reading opportunities at home. We have also arranged for each child to have access to over 2000 children's eBooks through the Plymouth Schools Library Services (this is different to Plymouth Library). Teachers will send login details for both of these sites to the children's email addresses next week.

### The Big Garden Bird Watch

Last year we were able to collate bird observations at school but this year, I would like to encourage you to take part in the Big Garden Bird Watch starting today and ending on the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month. It is easy to go online, see all the birds and if you want to, print off the tick sheets as the birds are spotted. It is all free and there is no need to pay to join the RSPB. If the children would like to tell me about their observations I would be very keen to hear and will include any highlights in my newsletter next week.

### Home Learning and Engaging with Learning

I understand that children will be learning from home until at least the 8<sup>th</sup> March and the government may choose to make it longer depending on death rates, R rates and NHS capacity. As



a school, we will be preparing for the children to return and I ask that you keep the momentum of home learning going or step up if your engagement has been limited. It is very difficult to juggle home life, work and home learning but, all I ask is that you do your best. I would like every child to come back into school and pick up where they left off so that they are not disadvantaged as learners when they return. Thank you all for your efforts to date and try to dip into the learning every day, even if you can't manage to do it all. Staff are very keen to see and chat to your child each week so please log in to the zoom or Teams session that you are invited to on a weekly basis.

I do hope that you all have a lovely weekend and enjoy some rest and recreation.

Yours sincerely,

*E.A. Hill*

Mrs E A Hill  
Head Teacher

