



MorgansMail



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communication creativity craftsmanship curiosity confidence commitment collaboration



School Update

We have had an extremely busy time over the last few weeks in order to put in place the things that have needed to happen to ensure immediate protection of our whole school community. We have been able to remain partially open up until Thursday 2nd April and our amazing staff have come in to look after those children of critical workers who have needed support. This number has diminished over the last week as more families are able to keep their children safely at home. We have had further staff shortages due to sickness, self-isolation or staff caring for those who are vulnerable and are following shielding guidelines. As a result of this fact, coupled with diminished need, we have made the decision to close the school fully, indefinitely. We are working with the local authority to ensure the three families that require a space will have one locally. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our staff who volunteered to come into school to work with those children of critical workers such as NHS employees. It should be acknowledged that they too were on the front line, they did so with no PPE (personal protective equipment), but wanted to support the response to Covid-19, to ensure hospitals can continue to run, food continues to be produced, shops stay open and deliveries happen regularly.

Home Learning

In addition to the school being partially open, our teachers have worked tirelessly to provide home learning activities to all children across the school. We have ensured that home learning activities have been sent to all families from the moment we partially closed the school, and are aware that there have been some glitches with this. Thank you for your feedback over the last couple of

weeks. This has helped our teachers tweak what they are preparing for the children in their class. For example you have asked for home learning to come to you on a Friday so that you can plan for the week ahead rather than a Monday. This will begin after Easter. During this time away from school, we have also been looking into different platforms that we will use moving forward. Teachers have met virtually in their phases to discuss the benefits of which platform to use for their age of class and the discussion and trialling has been happening behind the scenes in order to ensure consistency of approach and high quality of home learning and feedback.

We have decided to go with the following and will be trialling it over the first few weeks after Easter. We welcome your feedback and ideas, and will adapt and develop as time goes on to ensure consistency and progress across the school.

Home Learning for Early Years - Nursery and Reception Tapestry

We will continue to use Tapestry to share the home learning with you and your children. We ask that you upload one piece of learning per week at least. After Easter, teachers will give feedback to you on at least one peice of learning each week and will give comments, next steps and / or a challenge. Teachers will also begin to tick the assessment boxes to give indications of the learning that they have seen taking place and to support you at home, and these will be shown under the uploaded observation.

Over the Easter period, please share something on Tapestry that you have done together. This could be some cooking, art and craft or going on a walk and looking for signs of spring.



Home Learning for KS1 and LKS2 - Years 1- 4

Seesaw

Seesaw is a platform for child engagement that inspires them to use creative tools to take pictures, draw, record videos and more to capture learning in a portfolio. Teachers find or create activities to share with children. It is a great way to communicate as a class.

Teachers will provide only one planned home learning task during the Easter period. This is to allow parents to become familiar with the resource and ensure that our teachers and teaching assistants have the time to rest and spend quality time with their families. It is equally important to us that children spend time with their families also, taking part in family activities together, and take a well deserved break from their learning.

We ask that over the Easter period you log into the platform that your child will be using if it is new to you and have an exploration so that you are ready to go after Easter. This will hopefully give the opportunity to iron out any glitches with passwords and log in details etc!

You will shortly be receiving a log in. If you scan in the QR code you will be taken into the Seesaw APP. (You might need to download the QR Code APP initially.)

Home Learning for UKS2 - Years 5 and 6

Google Classroom

We have decided to use Google classroom in UKS2. This is a platform that secondary schools often use so we believe this will be an excellent opportunity to prepare our children for this in the next stage of their education. As a Google school we believe this is an excellent addition to the rest of GSuite that we already use across the school including gmail, Google Calendar and google docs.



Year 5 and 6 teachers have set up Google Classrooms for the classes where there weren't classrooms before. The teachers have invited the children into the classrooms and your children will be able to access work set by the teacher within this 'virtual' classroom. Following Morgans Mail, you will receive instructions and a series of 'How to...' guides for you or your child to work through; **these guides must be followed in the order specified** (each guide is numbered). If you follow the guides you will be able to see one task set by the teacher. The teachers are only setting one task at the moment. For this task, the class teachers will give feedback to the children. Instructions and any questions that you may have should be covered in the 'How to...' guides.

It is the intention of Year 5 and 6 teachers that the tasks will increase from within the classroom as we all become more familiar with this way of working.

Teachers will provide only one planned home learning task during the Easter period. This is to ensure that our teachers and teaching assistants have the time to rest and spend quality time with their families. It is equally important to us that children spend time with their families also, taking part in family activities together, and take a well deserved break from their learning.

We ask, however, that over the Easter period you log into the platform that your child will be using if it is new to you and have an exploration so that you are ready to go after Easter. This will hopefully give the opportunity to iron out any glitches with passwords and log in details etc!

Passwords and usernames will be given individually by the class teacher. Please do not do anything until you receive this notification via email. This will help with security for the pupils. Passwords must not be changed in order for teachers to be able to access the accounts. If you or your child change the password and teachers are unable to access an account your usage may be forfeit from that point.

There are many YouTube clips which can help you to navigate around both Seesaw and Google Classroom. You may want to familiarise yourself with these before we get started!

E-Safety



Please ensure you read the e-safety policy with your children in an age appropriate manner before using the new platforms. This is a good time to remind your children about the importance of staying safe online, looking after themselves and others and using different online platforms responsibly.

Please read the E-Safety and data protection Policy which can be found on this page:

<https://www.morgans.herts.sch.uk/policies>

Please follow this link for important information:

<https://www.morgans.herts.sch.uk/esafety>



We are really enjoying adding your wonderful work to our school Facebook page. It is so brilliant to see how much learning and how creative you are all being. Please continue to send in your work and we will add it when we can, some will be in pictures and some in posts. If you send in a piece of learning please put a description of it so we can add it in. Please ensure that if you comment on anything on line do not add children's names for security. Please be reminded that FB is not a place to ask teachers questions please email admin for this. Thank you!

Admin team

We would also like to say many thanks to our fantastic admin team who have also been coming into school to provide support and who have had lots to do remotely based on government guidelines with regards to the whole school organisation. Our admin email is checked regularly and feedback or questions you may have are sent on to teachers promptly.



Staffing News

We have a few changes to staffing to announce. Mrs Keen and Mrs Amos who have been teaching in nursery, will be leaving us at the end of the Spring term. Mrs Keen is moving on from teaching and following her interest in SEND and in particular, her passion for supporting in speech and language. Mrs Amos is having a break from teaching and we wish her well in the next stage of her journey. We are sad to see them leave our team at Morgans and would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all of their hard work and dedication to the children and their families who they have worked with over the years. We wish them luck in all of their future endeavours.

Mrs Hayward, who is a TA in Spruce class, also leaves us at the end of this term due to personal reasons brought on by these challenging and unprecedented times. We wish her well and send all our best wishes.

As we are unable to say our goodbyes to these staff members in the normal way due to school closure, we plan to put on an afternoon tea for them when school reopens to give everyone the opportunity to wish them farewell and to give them the send off they so rightly deserve.

We are pleased to announce that we have successfully appointed Mrs Ester Truter to take up the position of nursery teacher. She has begun her role this week and has been working with Mrs Amos and Mrs Keen, as well as Mrs Smith, our EY lead, to ensure a smooth transition of the role. Mrs Truter is an experienced Early Years practitioner and we are excited by the ideas and creativity she will bring to the position.

We also welcome Mrs Julia Welch, an experienced TA, to our team. Mrs Welch started at Morgans 2 weeks prior to closing and has spent her time so far working in Reception and Year 5 classes.

Government Assessments Update

As you will be aware from the national news from the Department for Education, the Government has decided that due to these unprecedented times all examinations and end of year assessments will not take place this year. This includes phonics check, Y2 and Y6 SATs and the Y4 Tables check that was due to begin this year.



'Primary assessments, including SATs, and exams including GCSEs, AS levels and A levels, will not go ahead this summer. The exam regulator, Ofqual, and exam boards, will work with teachers to provide grades to students whose exams for GCSEs, AS and A levels have been cancelled this summer.' Secretary of State for Education

We will update you as soon as we have any further information with regards to the collection of teacher assessment levels.

Year 6 Goodbyes

We are aware that we may not be able to do the normal Year 6 leavers' assembly and goodbye party if the school is not open before the end of term. We have already been having discussions about how we can ensure our wonderful Year 6 children get the send off they deserve! We have thought about having a leavers' assembly in September, if need



be, and will liaise with all the secondary schools to enable children to come back for this. If this is not possible then we could offer an after school assembly. Also, we would still like to organise a fun, farewell party after school for the children in early September for the whole year group and the teachers who have taught them. If you have any ideas or feedback on this please email admin@morgans.herts.sch.uk.



Useful information

Useful information during these unprecedented times can be found for parents on the government website. This is regularly updated so is worth checking regularly. We have added a few links below you may find useful.

<https://www.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing#exams>

We will continue to update you regularly on any important news from the government and we will be providing you with a monthly newsletter to update you on happenings at Morgans.

We extend all our thoughts and best wishes to the whole school community at this time and hope that you all stay safe and well. We will send you a Morgans Mail monthly during this time.

Helen Jackson and Alis Rocca
Co-Headteachers



