



HEADCORN HEADLINES: Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers



We have all made it through to the end of yet another strange and challenging term.

Thank you to everyone for your understanding and support with the two day school closure due to the snow. The driving conditions were just too treacherous for my staff who live across the county and faced significant risk being able to attend the school site. Fortunately, we were able to carefully make our way to site for the remainder of the week and were still able to meet together online and continue support home learning even when school was closed - a silver lining from this pandemic.

As I was thinking about what to write for this final Headlines for this term, I remembered an article written by a mother and an author sharing her thoughts about Home Schooling. Its message I think rings true for so many families as she described how she's felt that she's lost a year with her children: battling over learning, describing clashes over writing and maths, feeling distress over emotional outbursts, frustrations, anger and tears.

I think we need to remind our children that no child in the history of children has ever had to face what they are facing right now. No child in the history of children has ever had to do school at home for such a long period of time, sitting in their bedrooms or at their dining room tables, watching their teacher and friends on a computer.



No child in the history of children has not been allowed to play out or have play dates or sleepovers, has been barred from seeing family, forbidden from participating in so many things that they normally enjoy.

Their bravery and courage to adapt and cope with all these restrictions says to me that **they are superheroes and they are making history!**

Perhaps we all need to give them more credit for rolling with the punches and tell them even more often of how proud we are of them, that they are doing the impossible and they're doing a really great job. We've thanked everyone from healthcare workers to grocery store employees, but have we thanked the children enough for bearing the burden of what has been put on their shoulders this year? We've said children are resilient and they are, but they are also real-life superheroes. They have had zero say in their lives, have very little control over what happens on a daily basis but are doing their best to adjust and cope every day. This situation was supposed to be temporary but here we are a year later still all trying to hold our heads above water. Your home is your home and not school, it needs to be a safe place and not somewhere you want to turn into a battle ground over something that none of you signed up for. Remember you can only do what you can do and that IS enough!

Hug your superheroes for us all today. We are all so very proud of them and they deserve their very own national round of applause!



Enjoy your Half Term by choosing wellbeing where you can: family time, decadent duvet days, dig out the jigsaw, go for a walk together, bake a cake and savour every mouthful. Choose joy and laughter, and celebrate that we have all made it this far by all being our very own special brand of superhero!

Miss Symonds

Keep in Touch!

Please remember to keep us informed of any positive COVID-19 test results over Half Term so we can support the Track and Trace efforts. Please email admin@headcorn.kent.sch.uk with any relevant information.

Wellbeing Wednesdays

The first two Wednesdays back in Term 4 (24th Feb & 3rd March) will be screen-free Wellbeing Wednesdays. We will be providing a range of activities for your child to work on independently or that you can enjoy together as a family. Some of these involve craft activities so you may want to gather some things together over Half Term in preparation: cardboard boxes, cardboard tubes, paper, glue / sticky tape, coloured pencils or felt-tips, paints if you have any, or anything to decorate with. More info to follow at the start of next term!



World Book Day: Thursday 4th March 2021

World Book Day is on the second Thursday back after Half Term. Your child is more than welcome to dress up as a character whether they are at school or learning at home. Please do not feel the need to spend lots of money but be creative with what you have available at home or it could be a project for one of the Wellbeing Wednesdays! The theme is 'Share a Story' and so we are hoping to provide an online library of staff reading stories that your child can enjoy over this time.



Interesting website resources for you to browse:

<https://www.mykentfamily.co.uk/things-to-do/50-things-to-do-with-the-kids-at-home-242378/?cmpredirect>
<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/make>
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/metkids/explore>
<https://www.nga.gov/education/teachers/lessons-activities.html>

With Safer Internet Day this week, please see the link provided below from Kent Police for activities that are age appropriate (4 – 19). These can be completed with your children to make them think about safe, trustworthy internet use. All resources are downloadable.



<https://www.kent.police.uk/police-forces/kent-police/areas/kent-police/campaigns/campaigns/2020/parent-resources-activity-packs/>

Messy Church: The church is planning to have a 'Virtual' Messy Church over the February half term and are going to put out craft / art activities in bags that can be collected from the church. Details will be available on the church Facebook page. Takeaway bags will be available for collection from **Saturday 13th February** and throughout the half-term week, either from the church porch, or from under the lychgate (weather dependent). Best wishes from Jane Hatley and the Messy Church Team



Support from KCC Libraries

We know many families need all the help they can get at this challenging time. While Lockdown No. 3 is in progress, we wanted to share that Libraries still have lots of resources available for children and their families that can support home learning. I've attached two information sheets that may be of interest for your pupils' families.



One information sheet lists some of the many library eResources that families can use, including:

- Families can join and manage their cards online too (library cards are free).
- Thousands of free eBooks and eAudiobooks – both stories and information books
- Free online resources to help with home learning
- Free eMagazines and eNewspapers - lots of titles to choose from
- Our Ask a Kent Librarian service can help with accessing digital resources on your own device(s). If you're stuck with this, or any other query, they can help.

The other information sheet covers online safety, highlighting a range of helpful free resources that families can use, including:

- Home activity packs – available for different age groups
- Family activities on topics such as cyber security and sharing images
- Online safety information available as text or in short videos

We also share service updates and virtual events and activities, including story and rhyme times regularly on our social media platforms:

<https://www.facebook.com/KentLibrariesArchives>
<https://www.facebook.com/Maidstone-Libraries-1636236179774954>
<https://twitter.com/kentlibraries>
<https://www.youtube.com/> - Kent Libraries, Registration and Archives