

# Robert Browning, Snowfields and Tower Bridge Primary Schools

We learn and succeed together



5th March 2021



@PrimaryRobert @SNSPrimary @tbprimary Find us at: [www.bridgesfederation.org.uk](http://www.bridgesfederation.org.uk)



We can't wait to have you all back at school!



## Reopening of schools

We are looking forward to welcoming all our children back to school on **Monday 8th March**. Thank you to all our families who have either emailed, texted or tweeted some lovely comments in support of teachers hard work and to simply say 'Thank you!'

You can read some of these comments below!

"It has not gone unnoticed how much support and effort the team have given."

"A big thank you for everything you have done since January"

"We have gratitude for the school for their support"

"Thank you to all the teachers and support staff that are helping me and everyone through lockdown."

"I appreciated being able to have conversations with school staff."

"Thank you for all the messages, calls and updates which have made home learning easier."

"We are so grateful for all the work you have done over lockdown."

"Thank you for everything."

"Thank you for all your hard work."

## Parents and Carers of Year 1 Pupils

On Monday 8th March, the Year One classes across the federation will be having a 'Superhero Day' to help save the school from the baddies: Filth and Vacuum (Picture below). We would like the children to come to school dressed as a superhero. They could drape a towel/ small sheet around their neck if they do not have a costume. We will be making masks and finding different ways to save the school. A letter is on google classroom for your children to look at.



## 2020 - 2021 Term Dates

### Autumn term

Thursday 3rd September 2020 - Friday 23rd October 2020

**Half Term** Monday 26th October 2020 - Friday 30th October 2020

Monday 2nd November 2020 - Friday 18th December 2020

### Spring term

Tuesday 5th January 2021 - Friday 12th February 2021

**Half Term** Monday 15th February 2021 - Friday 19th February 2021

Monday 22nd February 2021 - Friday 26th March 2021

### Summer term

Monday 19th April 2021 - Friday 28th May 2021

**Half Term** Monday 31st May 2021 - Friday 4th June 2021

Monday 7th June 2021 - Friday 23rd July 2021

### Inset days - school closed

Tuesday 1st September  
Wednesday 2nd September  
Monday 4th January

## Early Vaccine for Parents and Carers

If you are a parent caring for a child with a disability you should have priority access to the Covid vaccine.

Please click the link below for further information:

<https://contact.org.uk/news-and-blogs/parent-carers-added-to-covid-19-vaccine-priority-list-across-the-uk/>

You will need to contact your GP and ask to have a 'carer flag' added to your record. Then you will get bumped up the priority list.

## Keeping Children Safe in Education

The Government has updated their 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' advice and guidance to support parents safeguarding their children while online during the coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19) outbreak.

Please click on the link here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19->

## Lost Property

If you think you have any lost property in school, please contact the school office to arrange a date and time to collect your items.



The following children received a certificate for their independent learning!



### Reading Eggs

**Gold** - DeetyaY2, Raf YR, John, Alayna YN, Emma YR, Emily Y1, Alma YR, Saroban YR, T'lyla YR

**Silver** - Valesuis YR, Janelle YR, Deetya Y2, Anjaneya Y2

**Bronze** - Elin YN

### Reading Eggspress

**Gold** - Baraka Y4

**Bronze**—Izzabel Y6, Domenico Y5, Ola Y6

### Mathletics

**Silver** - Raila Y3, Anjaneya Y2, Jason Y3

**Bronze** - Trinette Y5, Raila Y3, Zuriel Y5, Al Amin Y4, Temidayo Y5, Katy Y4, Hope Y5, Meaghan Y1, Bethany Y3, Melat Y2, Iltreh Y1, Yaseen Y5, Anjaneya Y2, Deetya Y2, Fatima Y6, Isabella Y3, Raf YR, Enzo Y3, Lilly Rose Y3, Jason Y3, Lymas Y1, Temitayo Y5, Eliana Y1, Mosunmola Y3, Ola Y6, Farhan Y6, Aleeza Y6, Inayah YR, Isabella Y3, Mungiva Y6, Izzabel Y6, Sulayman Y6, Hadil Y6, salem Y4, Prince Y2, Fahad Y4, Domenico Y5, Zoe Y5, Param Y5, Parin Y5



### Reading Eggspress

**Gold** - Ephraim Y5, Nadir Y6

**Silver** - Ephraim Y5, Nadir Y6

**Bronze** - Bella Y6, Isaac Y2, Rudy Y2, Annalisa Y4, Ephraim Y5, Nadir Y6

### Reading Eggs

**Gold** - Sam YR, Amarion Y2, Asher YR, Jason Y4

**Silver** - Jason Y4

**1<sup>st</sup>** – 1<sup>st</sup> Asher YR, Lexi Y2, Shakirah Y2

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – Ella Y4, Connor Y5

### Mathletics

**Gold** - Maria Y1

**Silver** - Ephraim Y5, Kajus Y6, Titus Y4, La'rayah Y3, Simra Y4, Jason Y4, Joel Y3, Olive Y1, Sabrine Y4, Xingrui Y3, Youcef Y2

**Bronze** - YR Arlee, Muhammed Y1, Frankie Y1, Ella Y1, Elsa Y1, William Y1, Isaac Y2, Sara Y2, Amirah Y2, Amarion Y2, Maliyah Y2, Lexi Y2, Rudy Y2, Chinonso Y2, Arthur Y2, Charlie Y2, Hazel Y3, Youcef Y3, Gibril Y3, Wassim Y3, Reggie Y3, Kiyrah Y3, Mohammed Y3, Nathaniel Y4, Annalisa Y4, Milly Y4, Salma Y4, Iman Y4, Sabrine Y4, Armani Y5, Amari Y5, Xingya Y5, Moaad Y6, Nadir Y6, Myrell Y6, Sophia Y6, Malak Y6, Deacon Y6, Blue Y6, Bella Y6



### Reading Eggs

**Gold** – Aimon YN, Novel YR, Franklin YR, Stephany Y1, Ekram Y2, Jayden Y3

**Silver** - Samuel Y2

### Mathletics

**Silver** - Anas Y1, Melanie Y1, Maria Y1, Kamari Y1, Kelly Y5, Isabelle Y5

**Bronze** - Maksim Y1, Era Y1, Samara F Y1, Logan Y1, Maria Y1, Hamad Y1, Livinny Y2, Samy Y2, Angela Y2, Hibatullah Y2, Simon Y3, Michael Y3, Meshach Y3, Teniola Y5, Jaydan Y5, Shantall Y6, Tiago Y6, Chloe Y6, Al Y6, Paul Y6



Well done to all of our children who have shared on Twitter examples of some of the activities they have been completing at home and at school.

Below are the names of those children along with some Twitter posts.

## Robert Browning

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Aoife YN       | Lachlan YN   |
| Skyla YN       | Meriem YN    |
| Osarugemwen YN |              |
| Ehan YR        | Rona YR      |
| Novel YR       | Sara YR      |
| Idris YR       | Zarifah YR   |
| Diyan YR       | Franklin YR  |
| Logan Y1       | Melanie Y1   |
| Anas Y1        | Mahzala Y1   |
| Yunus Y1       | Fikky Y1     |
| J'Adore Y1     | Maksim Y1    |
| Caleb Y1       | Reyan Y1     |
| Siham Y1       | Samara F Y1  |
| Samara D Y1    | Stephany Y1  |
| Ashley Y1      | Devonte Y1   |
| Aaron Y2       | Abbey Y2     |
| Adar Y2        | Angela Y2    |
| Ekrum Y2       | Felicia Y2   |
| Jack Y2        | Jaydenae Y2  |
| Joshua Y2      | Kaiden Y2    |
| Kamarley Y2    | Livinny Y2   |
| Rosie Y2       | Samy Y2      |
| Samuel Y2      | Sayid Y2     |
| Sophie Y2      | Thiago Y2    |
| Gabriel Y3     | Rahi Y3      |
| Lily Y3        | Le'Rico Y3   |
| Simon Y3       | Mohammed Y3  |
| Naa'im Y3      | Michael Y3   |
| Nasir Y3       | Debbie Y3    |
| Mason Y3       | Meshach Y3   |
| Teddy Y3       | Raied Y3     |
| Anam Y3        | Austin Y3    |
| George Y3      | Jayden Y3    |
| Amreen Y3      | Ahmet Y3     |
| Imaan Y3       | Kara Y3      |
| Sana Y3        |              |
| Salmon Y4      | Aaliyah Y4   |
| Aamir Y4       | Aia Y4       |
| Chelsea Y4     | Enoch Y4     |
| Ermal Y4       | Fatouma Y4   |
| Fawaz Y4       | Hassan Y4    |
| Jasmin Y4      | Joseph Y4    |
| Kamilah Y4     | Kelahnne Y4  |
| Ledion Y4      | Lola Y4      |
| Long Y4        | Maryam Y4    |
| Monae Y4       | Mounir Y4    |
| Monira Y4      | Rayan Y4     |
| Renaya Y4      | Roihanna Y4  |
| Skye Y4        | Tnok Y4      |
| Izrael Y4      | Mavy Y4      |
| Aella Y5       | AJ Y5        |
| Amila Y5       | Aneeqa Y5    |
| Ellie-Rose Y5  | Isabelle Y5  |
| Jamal Y5       | Jayden Y5    |
| Kelly Y5       | Kelsey Y5    |
| Liam Y5        | Mamadou Y5   |
| Mohamed J Y5   | Mohamed M Y5 |
| Natalie Y5     | Olivia Y5    |
| Ore Y5         | Qi Zong Y5   |
| Sheerin Y5     | Tenny Y5     |
| Tomiwa Y5      | Yusuf Y5     |
| Ethan Y6       | Sara Y6      |
| Stefan Y6      | Ashan Y6     |
| Fatima Y6      | Julia Y6     |

## Snowsfields

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Axel YN       | Salma YN     |
| Grace YN      | Eliana YN    |
| Maisie YN     | Holly YN     |
| Haby YN       | Sebastian YN |
| Naylaa YN     | Bouba YN     |
| Yassir YN     |              |
| Mohammed YR   | Janelle YR   |
| Thomas YR     | Saroban YR   |
| Emma YR       | Alma YR      |
| Teddy YR      | Tobi YR      |
| T'Jei YR      | Assia YR     |
| Siun YR       | Yousuf YR    |
| Cai-Israel YR | Matthew YR   |
| Inayah YR     | Uthman YR    |
| Raf YR        | Ilham YR     |
| Abby YR       | Noor YR      |
| John YR       | Arthur YR    |
| T'Lyla YR     | Jody YR      |
| Alexander YR  | Oliver YR    |
| Valesuis YR   | Oliver YR    |
| Zavaria Y1    | Meaghan Y1   |
| Raven Y1      | Riley Y1     |
| Kyle Y1       | Oscar Y1     |
| Reece Y1      | Azzan Y1     |
| Emily Y1      | Iltrah Y1    |
| Eliana Y1     | Tomisin Y1   |
| Maya Y1       | Joab Y1      |
| Lymas Y1      |              |
| Adeola Y2     | Emmanuel Y2  |
| Iris Y2       | Kareem Y2    |
| Ayaan Y2      | Melat Y2     |
| Nia Y2        | Kamil Y2     |
| Anjaneya Y2   | Kwabena Y2   |
| Regina Y2     | Deetya Y2    |
| Preston Y2    | Theo Y2      |
| Francis Y2    | Iman Y2      |
| Tristan Y2    | Prince Y2    |
| Harun Y2      | Josh Y2      |
| Fillip Y2     | Lexie Y2     |
| Jayden Y3     | Sumaiya Y3   |
| Raila Y3      | Oumeira Y3   |
| Gabriella Y3  | Yaseen Y3    |
| Lilly Rose Y3 | Romeo Y3     |
| Mamadou Y3    | Bethany Y3   |
| Jacob Y3      | Mosunmola Y3 |
| Leena Y3      | Joshua Y3    |
| Isabella Y3   | Enzo Y3      |
| Benjamin Y3   | Imran Y3     |
| Keegan Y3     | Jason Y3     |
| Raphael Y3    | Jaheim Y3    |
| Iman Y4       | Amani Y4     |
| Al Amin Y4    | Lilian Y4    |
| Zahon Y4      | Edward Y4    |
| Salem Y4      | Izzy Y4      |
| Perry Y4      | Ava Y4       |
| Yousuf Y4     | Anita Y4     |
| Elea Y4       | Baraka Y4    |
| Chrisamel Y4  | Fahad Y4     |
| Karmye Y4     | Shem Y4      |
| Ryan Y4       | Salma Y4     |
| Laila Jay Y4  | Nolawi Y4    |
| Katy Y4       |              |
| Adnan Y5      | Angelina Y5  |
| Braydon Y5    | Domenico Y5  |
| Dominika Y5   | Fanta Y5     |
| Hope Y5       | Ilham Y5     |
| Joannie Y5    | Kawthar Y5   |
| Kimora Y5     | Lailaa Y5    |
| Philippa Y5   | Princess Y5  |
| Reem Y5       | Parin Y5     |
| Sana Y5       | Sidney Y5    |
| Temidayo Y5   | Temitayo Y5  |
| Trinette Y5   | Yaseen Y5    |
| Zain Y5       | Zoe Y5       |
| Param Y5      | Rosie Y5     |

## Tower Bridge

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Isaac YR      | Isla YR       |
| Max YR        | Yugan YR      |
| Peggy YR      |               |
| Muhammed Y1   | Poppy Y1      |
| Ratwan Y1     | William Y1    |
| Elsa Y1       | Janayah Y1    |
| Maria Y1      | Theo Y1       |
| Nafissah Y1   | Tomiwa Y1     |
| Daivansh Y1   | Niah Y1       |
| Jaaziel Y1    | Khalil Y1     |
| Anthony Y1    | Aden Y1       |
| Yassine Y1    | Damon Y1      |
| Frankie Y1    | Leah Y1       |
| Isaac Y2      | Sara Y2       |
| Ibrahim Y2    | Amirah Y2     |
| Mia Y2        | Milan Y2      |
| Amarion Y2    | Maliyah Y2    |
| Aneesha Y2    | Lexi Y2       |
| Shakirah Y2   | Rudy Y2       |
| Kaya Y2       | Musawir Y2    |
| Moussa Y2     | Aliyah Y2     |
| Chinonso Y2   | Oscar Y2      |
| Reggie Y2     | Youcef Y2     |
| Arthur Y2     | Khaira Y2     |
| Charlie Y2    | Amani Y3      |
| Joel Y3       | Majed Y3      |
| Rabia Y3      | Kiyrah Y3     |
| La'rayah Y3   | Suraya Y3     |
| Hazel Y3      | Youcef Y3     |
| Erik Y3       | Gibril Y3     |
| Nicole Y3     | Salwa Y3      |
| Wassim Y3     | Ameerat Y3    |
| Xingrui Y3    | Reginald Y3   |
| Shebaniah Y3  | Taja'lee Y3   |
| Vaughan Y3    | Saira Y3      |
| Mohammed Y3   | Amerah Y4     |
| Nathaniel Y4  | Ishmael Y4    |
| Billy-Ray Y4  | Lola Y4       |
| Annalisa Y4   | Amina Y4      |
| Titus Y4      | Milly Jade Y4 |
| Belle Y4      | Sian Y4       |
| Simra Y4      | Salma Y4      |
| Jason Y4      | Iman Y4       |
| Amy Y4        | Ava Y4        |
| Ella Y4       | Al-Hassane Y4 |
| Sabrina Y4    | Elizabeth Y4  |
| Noah Y4       | Courtney Y4   |
| Scarlett Y4   | Mohammed Y4   |
| Kai Y4        | Neymar Y4     |
| Zakir Y4      | Abubaki Y5    |
| Ephraim Y5    | Armani Y5     |
| Hassanatou Y5 | Enzo Y5       |
| Demi Y5       | Shayne Y5     |
| Amari Y5      | India Y5      |
| Zain Y5       | Collins Y5    |
| Rakin Y5      | Samsor Y5     |
| Khaled Y5     | Emily Y5      |
| Elijah Y5     | Charlie Y5    |
| Xingya Y5     | Jayden Y5     |
| Maisie Y5     | Connor Y5     |
| Leah Y5       | Saida Y5      |
| Sumaya Y5     | Bella Y6      |
| Mawata Y5     | Blue Y6       |
| Rachel Y6     | Elijah Y6     |
| Fejiro Y6     | Kajus Y6      |
| Ruby Y6       | Tino Y6       |
| Moaad Y6      | Amna Y6       |
| Nadir Y6      | Ruya Y6       |
| Myrell Y6     | Sophia Y6     |
| Tilly Y6      | Sirius Y6     |
| Lordina Y6    | Malak Y6      |
| Deacon Y6     | Scarlett Y6   |
| Olivia R Y6   | Olivia S Y6   |



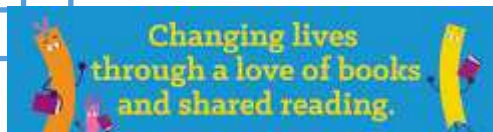
# Tweets



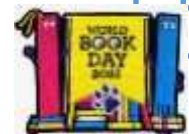








# World Book Day 2021



This year our theme for World Book Day is 'Escapism'. Reading is a fantastic way to immerse ourselves into a different world and escape reality for a little moment. Books are fantastic at getting our imagination flowing and I'm so proud of how much the children have embraced this year's theme at the Bridges Federation'.



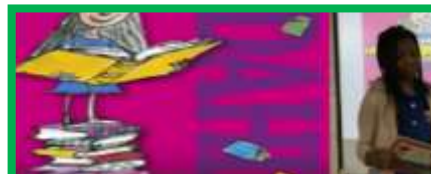
"In Year 5 we dressed up for World Book Day and watched lots of teachers read stories on a Google Classroom Library.



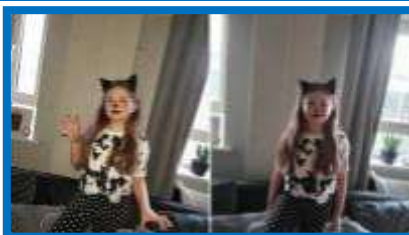
"I really enjoyed World Book Day as we thought about our dreams and read Alice in Wonderland. Her dreams are wild and linked to our theme of 'escapism.'"



"I enjoyed the World Book Day presentations which was fun and exciting!"



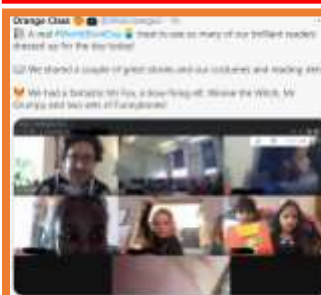
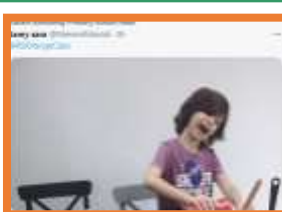




"I liked dressing up as my favourite book character and not having to wear a school uniform and I liked recreating my favourite books cover."

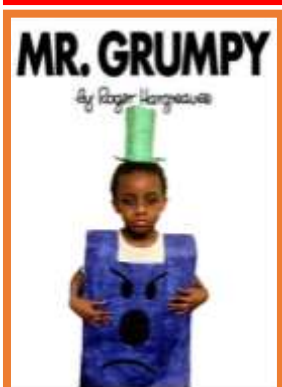
"I enjoyed recreating my book cover because we have never had the opportunity to do something like this in World Book Day."

"I like when other people and adults wear different outfits and even we have a great time having a photo altogether!"

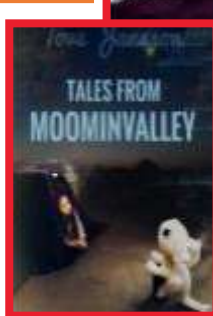


"What I enjoyed the most about World Book Day is when we shared our wackiest dreams with each other on Google Meet."

"I liked our class google meet because we got to see everyone in their costumes!"



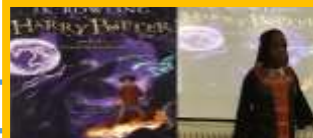
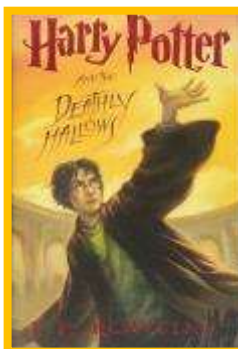
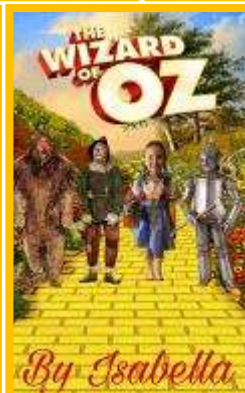
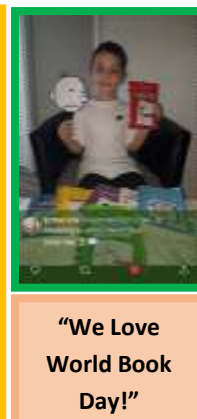
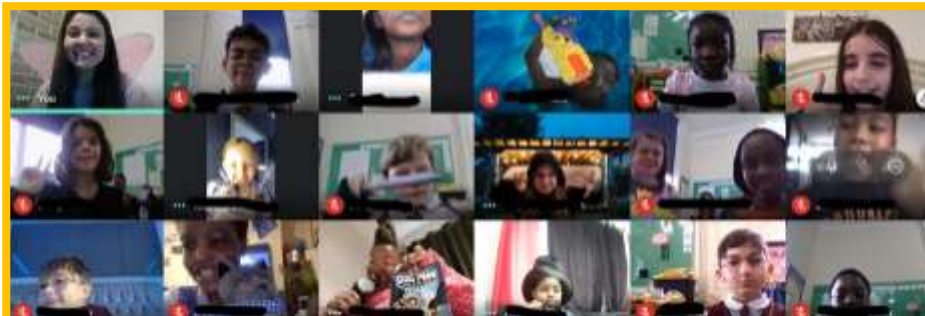
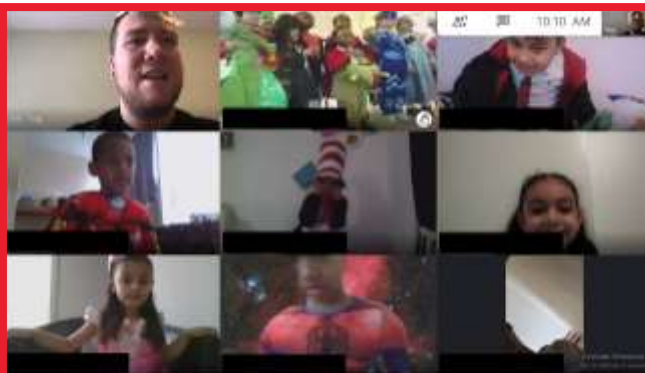
We had a lovely time celebrating World Book Day even though weren't all together at school!



"I liked the books the most and my favourite book was... ALL OF THEM!"









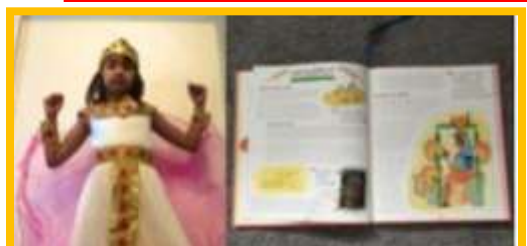
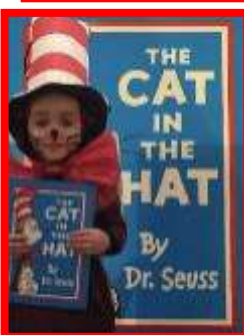


"I enjoyed seeing everybody's costumes and having fun making our own book covers. It really brightened up my day."

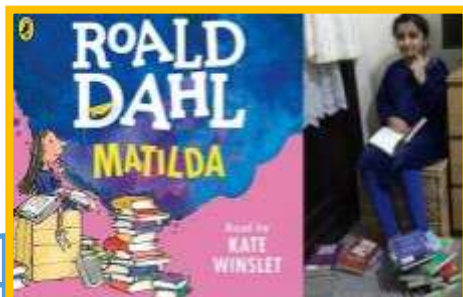
On World Book Day, we started our day realising that someone had stolen all of the books from our classroom! So we went on a book hunt to rescue all the scattered books and restore them to their rightful place in year 1.

Then we did a scavenger hunt looking in the books and shared our favourite stories. We met with our friends on Google Meet and saw all the amazing costumes and had a live story time.

The children at home recreated book covers and took pictures of themselves reading in strange places!



"I loved dressing up and being able to share world book day with my class even though we were at home."



"I enjoyed how we got to pose as our favourite book characters to make front covers."







A banner with the text "Welcome back!" in large, colorful, multi-colored letters. There are small star icons on either side of the text.

*We are really looking forward to welcoming all the children back in school on Monday. They have been working so hard with their online learning and we are so proud of them all. Thank you to all the parents for the support you have given your children and us. We know it has been challenging and frustrating at times.*

*Also I want to say a huge thank you to all the staff for the amazing job they have done throughout lockdown. Staff have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic, supporting all the children and providing engaging and fun learning.*

### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

We will be welcoming back all our pupils.

Our intention that the school will run as normally as possible within the current Government Guidance.

**All children will be expected to attend.** School will be compulsory again and families who don't attend may face fines.

Breakfast Club and After School Club opens

### **Drop off and pick up**

You must drop off your child between 8.45am and 9.00am.

You must collect your child at the end of the day between 3pm and 3.30pm. (3.15-3.30pm for Y4-6 at Robert Browning)

All children will be brought to the playground at the end of the day.

Only 1 parent is allowed to drop off/collect their child/ren.

Please wear a face covering.

Please make sure you are social distancing from other families.

Once you have dropped off or collected your child please move away from the school gates.

Visitors and parents/carers cannot enter the site and/or gather at school gates.

Please continue to phone and email us if you need to share information or ask questions. You will not have the usual daily contact with the teaching staff. We will call or email you instead (this includes if your child has an accident).

### **The School Day**

All children must wear school uniform. They can wear PE kit to school on the days they have PE.

The children will be allowed to bring in a water bottle and their book bags and bring books home again.

Phase or floor bubbles have been created. Children don't have to social distance in their bubbles.

Where possible children will sit in rows facing the front.

Staff do have to maintain social distancing. Some adults will be moving between bubbles and between schools, but this will be limited.

We will be following our normal school timetable and curriculum. We will plan interventions to help children catch up on the learning they have missed this year.

Lunchtimes will be in the dinner hall and will be staggered so only one bubble is in the hall at a time. Tables and benches will then be cleaned before the next class enters.

Playtimes will be staggered and bubbles will be allocated an area of the playground to use.

Other professionals will be coming into school to work with children and families. They will follow the most up to date guidance.

Many of the current protocols will continue; hygiene and frequent hand washing/hand gel, frequent cleaning, keep your distance and keep moving in shared areas such as corridors and staircases.

Staff will continue to test themselves for COVID twice a week.



## **Responding to a suspected case of Coronavirus**

**Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell.** If they have a high temperature, loss of smell or taste or a new, continuous, dry cough, please let us know and book your child to be tested immediately. There is a list of other symptoms available on the NHS and Government website.

Anyone displaying Coronavirus symptoms in school will be sent home immediately and will need to follow the Government guidelines for self isolation.

- Child with symptoms will be sent home and must arrange a test
- Siblings will be sent home
- Other families in the class/bubble will be notified
- Other children in that group can continue to come to school until the test results are back
- If the test is positive, the symptomatic child must self- isolate for 10 days, siblings for 10 days and the same group children and staff for 10 days. We will also notify Public Health England in Southwark for further guidance
- If negative, the child can return when better
- If parents refuse to test their child, we will notify Public Health England in Southwark who will follow this up with the family, GP and complete a risk assessment. They will advise the school on our next steps.

## **Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children at school or college**

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.





## What Parents & Carers Need to Know About

# SIGNAL

12+  
App Store  
Rating

Signal is a multimedia messaging service (previously known as TextSecure) which provides secure chats between users. It is encrypted, so any intercepted communication cannot be read by attackers. Users can send one-to-one messages or set up group chats. The service is free, has no adverts and doesn't track users' location like many other messaging platforms. The app experienced a popularity boom in early 2021 as large numbers of users left WhatsApp over perceived privacy issues.

### Disappearing Messages

Messages on Signal can be set to disappear (from both the sender and the recipient's devices) a specified time after they are first opened – potentially as little as five seconds. So it is difficult to monitor the app and see what your child is talking about. Should someone behave inappropriately towards them, unless they record evidence instantly there is no way to prove what has happened – making it difficult to take the proper action.

### Risk of Screenshot

Because messages can be set to disappear on Signal, some young people assume that nobody else will ever see them and let their guard down as a result. But a recipient could still capture a screenshot of your child's message before it vanishes from their device. This screenshot – which might be of something inappropriate or deeply personal – can then be shared with others or even made public on the internet.

### False Sense of Security

The feeling of total privacy and security within the app can make young people feel like they are invulnerable – and possibly that they could get away with behaving in ways they normally wouldn't. This behaviour could range from the harmful (such as participating in cyber bullying or sharing age-inappropriate images or videos) to the extremely dangerous: perhaps chatting to strangers, who might potentially be predators.

### Vulnerability to Hackers

Like virtually any piece of software, Signal has been shown to have flaws in its security. One hacker was able to make a call to a target device using the app and could then listen in on the victim through their phone – without needing them to even answer the call. Afterwards, the hacked user was completely unaware that the eavesdropping had taken place.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### Gather Any Evidence Quickly

If your children are old enough to use Signal, they will likely already know how to take a quick screenshot on their phone. It's best to confirm this with them, however, because if they've sent something inappropriate or offensive, they will only have a very short opportunity to screenshot it as evidence of misconduct before the message disappears. Once they've captured the screenshot, they should then come to you or another trusted adult.

### Talk about Online Bullying

Before your child downloads Signal, have an open discussion about the potential risks of this app and others like it. Ensure your child is aware of the possibility of bullying or hurtful messages on such platforms. They should understand that the app makers themselves do not help with investigating incidents – and that it may be difficult to prove someone has done something to upset them.

### Think before Sending

The messages a young person sends on Signal don't last forever, but the effects of those messages very well might – for your child and for others. You could suggest to your child that, if they're unsure whether to send a particular message, they should ask themselves if they would be comfortable showing the content to you. And if they wouldn't, should they really be sending it at all?

### Stay Updated

It's wise to make sure your child knows how to keep their software up to date by downloading the latest version. Developers will often release software updates that (as well as occasionally adding new features or improving functionality, etc.) help to fix any security flaws and stop hackers from exploiting possible weak points in the app.

### Consider Online Reputation

Talk to your child about the implications if a message they sent was made public without their consent. Remind them that once an image (for example) is out there, there's no way to control what happens to it or erase every single copy. It's a good way to get young people to start considering how their digital footprint might have repercussions on their future prospects.

### Meet Our Expert

Emma Davis is a cyber security expert and former ICT teacher: she delivers cyber awareness training to organisations nationally and has extensive knowledge and experience of managing how children access services and apps online.



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