

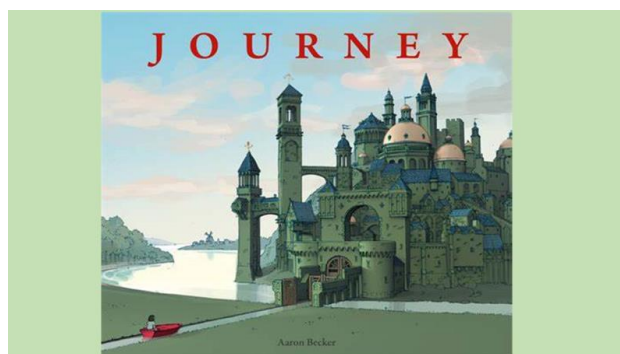


Thomas Johnson Lower School

Dream - Discover - Flourish

14th Sept 2020

Dear Parents and Carers



Whole School Text

(Journey: Written and illustrated by Aaron Becker, Published by Walker Books, 2013)

Our Recovery Curriculum in English starts with the whole school enjoying this stunning, wordless picture book. Over the next two weeks your child will be exploring the story of a young girl who, feeling lonely and ignored by her busy family, embarks on a solo adventure of discovery and friendship. The girl's unexpected journey begins when she takes her red crayon and draws a magical door on her bedroom wall. The door becomes a portal to a world of wonder, where beautiful landscapes and exciting possibilities merge with danger and challenge at every turn. The exquisite illustrations, and the powerful story told within its pages will captivate all pupils. The teaching activities have been adapted to fit the varying needs of each different class and year group.

Staying Safe Online

Once again we have heard of some very unpleasant videos being shared through different social media platforms. Sometimes these can be very violent or frightening. The worrying thing is that once accidentally seen by a child, these images can never be "unseen".

Please keep supervising your child's online usage and be aware of the age restrictions. The recommended age for a TikTok account is 12+ years old.

You can help your child by talking to them in advance about what to do if they see something which frightens and upsets them. In this way they will know to ask for your help should they unfortunately be a victim of this distressing trend.

Changes to This Week's Parent Information Sessions

Due to Government guidance, and to maintain everyone's safety, the following face-to-face meetings have now had to be cancelled.

- Pre-school/Nursery Parent Information Sessions on Tues 15th Sept and Wed 16th Sept.
- Meet the Teacher information session on Friday 18th September

Instead we will be sending you the information in an easy to read slide format. This will include details of how you can make contact with class teachers should you have any questions. Thank you for your understanding.

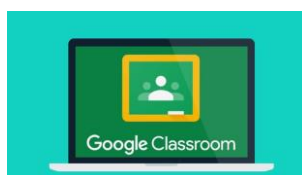
Remote Learning

In the event of a Class Bubble closing down (because of a local lockdown, or where a positive case is identified), your child's learning **will continue remotely**. This means that the class teacher will set lessons and be in contact with your child through our Google Classroom.

Some of you have used this before, and have told us what worked well and what could be even better. We have taken your suggestions on board, and we will be offering more support (teacher input) to help your child with their learning.

If you are new to Google Classroom, we will be giving you full details about how to access this over the next few days.

Please let Helen, our Office Manager, know if you have any worries about how this would work for you. It is important that you feel ready and fully supported should the school be placed in a position where we need to isolate a Bubble. Thank you.



When Your Child is Unwell

COVID-19 Symptoms

- A raised temperature - feeling hot to touch on the chest or back
- A new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or having 3 or more coughing episodes in a day
- Loss of smell or taste - this means you can't smell or taste anything, or things taste or smell different to usual

If your child, or anyone in your house, shows COVID-19 symptoms you must self isolate and take a test. You can book this online or call NHS 119 for advice. Phone us (01525 402377) and we will talk you through what to do.

Colds, sneezes, sore throats and sickness. We have received the following guidance: "The Government recognises that families will be unsure about what to do if and when their child develops the usual colds and sneezes this winter. Based on evidence from the UK and internationally they have found that COVID symptoms are generally milder in children than in adults: most infected children present with mild symptoms or are asymptomatic, and very few rarely develop severe or life-threatening disease. Children with simple cold symptoms such as coryzal symptoms (runny noses) or sore throats without fever who would normally have attended schools in other times should not be tested for COVID-19."

However, if your child is full of cold, or has a stomach upset or feels sick they may not have COVID-19, but they are still not well enough to be in school. Keep your child at home and see if any other symptoms develop, or until they are well enough to return. Ticky coughs, sniffs and sore throats are not generally thought to be symptoms, but should still be monitored carefully.

If you are unsure whether or not to bring your child to school, or whether to have them tested for COVID-19 please phone us and we will do our best to give you advice.



Dawn Til Dusk

A quick word from Paula and Amanda at Dawn Til Dusk.....

We are so pleased to be back and to see all the children, both existing children and new ones. It's been lovely hearing all their news.

As most of you know things are a little different for us all and that includes DTD. We have limited what we offer for tea to reduce on washing up and contact. Therefore we don't offer a cup of squash. However this is always on offer and if you are happy for us to add squash to your child's water bottle then we are happy to do so. Just mention to either of us at drop off or collection.

I want to reassure you that we have worked closely with the school and are following guidelines to ensure the children stay in their bubble and wash their hands frequently, as well as having lots of fun.

If you have any concerns or would like to discuss registering your child(a good idea in case of emergencies) then please get in touch by calling or texting 07584 251212 or email thomasjohnson@kidsdawniltildusk.co.uk



All Change!

It has been lovely to welcome so many children back this term. We have also welcomed some new faces, and it has been a pleasure to see how well they have settled in and are making friends.

Over the Summer the classrooms were set up based on anticipated pupil numbers and the new layout of desks (instead of groups of 6, children are now seated in twos).

Our final pupil numbers have been different to those we had expected, and having now seen the new seating arrangements in use, we have made a decision that two of the year groups would be even better placed by swapping classrooms - allowing for even more space around tables for our eldest (and therefore largest) pupils.

We believe that this will provide an even better learning environment. Staff have kindly volunteered their free time to help, and the change will take place this Friday immediately after school, to allow 72 hours to reduce transmission risks and add a further level of safety. Owls and Foxes children will therefore swap classrooms. You should continue to drop off and collect your child from the same doorway as presently.

With best wishes

Marian Haimes

Headteacher