

Headteacher's Note:

Hi everyone,

How uncertain times are at the moment! Last week we had to close the school because of COVID and staff absence, this week we have had to close the school for a snow day! Hopefully all of you enjoyed the snow, it was definitely good for sledging and snowman building. Bronte loves running around in the snow but had lots of snowballs attached to her feet (I'll post some photos).

Most of my address today, is for our home learners. I just want to say a massive well done to all of you for all of the hard work you are doing. I am so impressed, children, to see you on video reading your own stories; making lava lamps; amazing artwork; super story writing and magnificent maths (do you notice the alliteration?). I know it can be hard to motivate yourselves at home but you are all doing fantastically. I think the teachers are doing a pretty fabulous job too don't you?

Make sure you join the Zoom meetings for your class so that you can meet up with your friends. I promise you that your teachers really enjoy seeing your smiling faces. We've been very busy this week but Bronte and I will post another video next week.

Julie Bratt



School Jotter

As advised in our email on 22nd January, we will be using School Jotter for our text messaging service. Usernames and passwords were sent by email earlier this week.

It is important, particularly in this time of a pandemic, that you download the App and sign in to ensure you receive messages from us. This will be our method of communication for text messages and in order to be certain that you are kept fully abreast of all developments, you will need to activate your account so that you receive notifications promptly.

Please ensure you have logged into the App by 1st February.

We will be sending test messages next week to ensure you have activated your account and will continue to receive notifications from us.

If you already have the School Jotter app, just click the padlock in the top right corner and type in the username and password you were given. You are then ready to go.

Any queries please email:

admin@albrighton-pri.shropshire.sch.uk



Music:

Mrs Wilkinson is posting a daily recorder lesson on the school website during lockdown.

If you don't have a recorder, there is also advice on where to get one. The lessons can be found by following the link on the Curriculum Music page or by going to Curriculum - Extra-curricular - Online Recorder Lessons.

All of the lessons will remain on the page for a few weeks, so you can get started at any time.

Choir @ Home

Mrs Wilkinson really misses the weekly choir sessions at the moment - do you? Click the link on the music page of the website to take part in Mrs W's digital choir challenges - suitable for all ages.

Calling All Instrumentalists!

We know that lots of you play musical instruments in your spare time and many of you are continuing to have music lessons via Zoom during lockdown. We would love to post some videos of you playing your favourite piece for your friends to enjoy. Please email videos to music@albrighton-pri.shropshire.sch.uk

Meet the Deputy Headteacher:



About Me

My name is Karen Tearle and I am really excited to be joining you at Albrighton as the new deputy-head teacher.

I am mum to two daughters, Evie (13) and Betsy (9) and wife to Tim. I have lived in Telford for 18 years, after relocating from Surrey. Although I was actually born in the West Midlands, near Solihull.

For those 18 years I have been teaching in Telford, mainly at Meadows Primary School and Nursery in Ketley. I feel really lucky to do a job that I can honestly say I love and every day is a learning day.

I'm a creative person, really enjoying using the arts in different ways within my teaching. As a specialist teacher, I have a particular passion for heritage and I'm excited about the prospect of beginning a local heritage project in Albrighton.

I am really looking forward to welcoming all of the children back to school at the end of Lockdown and getting to know all the families of our pupils. I hope that in the near future I can organise some exciting events that will bring us together as a community.

My Favourites

- Food:** curries, tapas, roast pork dinner
- Colour:** teal and purple
- Sport:** football
- Books:** Tilly and the Book Wanderers and The Explorer
- Movies:** Elf (I love Christmas) and action films
- Place:** anywhere hot and sunny
- Animal:** cat
- Subjects:** history and literacy



Learning Mentor

Mrs Mulhall is our Learning Mentor, working at Albrighton Primary School for ten years.

"My roles to date have focused on supporting children with behavioural, social, emotional and special educational needs. I work within school to help our children and their families with any difficulties they may be experiencing. Having been married to an RAF Airman for many years I understand the complex and varied experiences and challenges this can bring. I am here to support, encourage and help overcome any barriers to learning and am available both before and after school, please contact the school office if you wish to speak to me about your child."

We can support your child with emotional issues, self-esteem, bereavement, divorce, separation, friendship issues and anxiety.

A warm and caring person who wants to help make your child feel happy in school.

We can support your child to manage and cope with their emotions.

We are able to support your children through life's challenges and help them find the strategies to cope.



Mental Health

Children's Mental Health Week is 1st to 7th February 2021.

The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is Express Yourself.

Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself.

As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health. Check out our free resources below.

Online resources to support Mental Health and Wellbeing can be found on the following websites:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/mental-health/>

<https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/>

<https://www.annafreud.org/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

Ideas to Entertain the Children during Lockdown 3.0:

Big Garden Birdwatch

Why not take part this weekend in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. The website provide details of how to get involved and also has activities for children.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

Winterwatch

Join the BBC's 'The Big Schools Winterwatch Live Lesson'

Learn some key skills to help you get outdoors and find out more about the birds in your environment!

This cross-curricular programme in partnership with the RSPB and BBC Two's Winterwatch allows Key Stage 2 pupils to experience the magic of nature in the winter from their classrooms and homes, and arm them with the necessary skills to go out and explore their local wildlife with the Big Schools Birdwatch and the Big Garden Birdwatch.

Pupils get a chance to learn about how their birdwatching can help contribute to the preservation of bird species in the UK. Covering key curriculum objectives across English, maths and science, the lesson delves into the key features of a 'how-to' guide, working scientifically using classification keys and how to present data using bar graphs.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/live-lessons/big-schools-winterwatch-live-lesson/zv8vn9q>

Gardening

The RHS has ideas on outdoor activities in the garden.

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/home>

Star Count

Why not join the Countryside Charity and take part in Star Count is CPRE, the countryside charity's annual survey of the nation's view of the night sky. Just look to the heavens between 6th and 14th February and count the number of stars you see in the constellation of Orion to help us map how light pollution affects our view of the stars.

For more details and how to order a free Star Count activity pack, visit their website.

<https://takeaction.cpre.org.uk/page/73248/data/1?locale=en-GB>

Non-screen activities you can do at home

Pobble

What can you do when there's no school and you're stuck at home? Here are 25 fun ideas to choose from.

25
ideas!



1 How many different words can you make from the letters in this sentence, below? Grab a pencil and paper and write a list!

'Learning from home is fun'

2 Thank a community hero. Think of someone that helps you in some way and write a short letter to thank them.

Thanks!

3 Get building! You could build a Lego model, a tower of playing cards or something else!



4 Can you create your own secret code? You could use letters, numbers, pictures or something else! Can you get someone else to try and crack it?

5 Start a nature diary. Look out of the window each day and keep note of what you see. Birds, flowers, changes in the weather, what else?

6 Hold a photo session. Use a camera or a mobile phone to take some snaps. What will you photograph? Your pets or toys perhaps?

7 Build a reading den. Find somewhere cosy, snuggle up and read your favourite book!



8 Use an old sock to create a puppet. Can you put on a puppet show for someone?



9 Make a list of all the electrical items in each room of your home. Can you come up with any ideas to use less electricity?

10 Design and make a homemade board game and play it with your family.



11 Do something kind for someone. Can you pay them a compliment, make them something or help them with a task?



12 Can you create a story bag? Find a bag and collect items to go in it that relate to a well known story. If you can't find an item, you could draw a picture to include.

13 List making! Write a list of things that make you happy, things you're grateful for or things you are good at.



14 Design and make an obstacle course at home or in the garden. How fast can you complete it?



15 Can you invent something new? Perhaps a gadget or something to help people? Draw a picture or write a description.



16 Keep moving! Make up a dance routine to your favourite song.



17 Write a play script. Can you act it out to other people?



18 Read out loud to someone. Remember to read with expression.



19 Write a song or rap about your favourite subject.



20 Get sketching! Find a photograph or picture of a person, place or object and sketch it.



21 Junk modelling! Collect and recycle materials such as yoghurt pots, toilet rolls and boxes and see what you can create with them.

22 Draw a map of your local area and highlight interesting landmarks.



23 Write a postcard to your teacher. Can you tell them what you like most about their class?

24 Draw a view. Look out of your window and draw what you see.



25 Get reading! What would you most like to learn about? Can you find out more about it in books? Can you find a new hobby?

Your school has the School Jotter app! Check it out!

Why should I download the app?

This innovative app keeps parents engaged by sending all the essential information straight to your phone. You will have access to regularly updated information:



News

Keep up to date with the very latest items

Calendar

Term dates, important events and parents evenings

Newsletter

Get newsletters from your school instantly

Galleries

Access photos shared by school

Notices

Push notifications for urgent messages and reminders

Contacts

See who to contact and how

Maps

List of useful locations of sports events or school trips

Everything in one app!

How do I download the app?

Android users

Go to Google Play, search for **School Jotter** or scan the QR code.



iOS users

Go to App Store and search for **School Jotter** or scan the QR code.

