



Franklin Times

30th March 2020

Dear Franklinites

Well done to you all for your first successful week of home learning. Never complacent (Ofsted 2020), we introduced Seesaw on Thursday last week, this allows you to upload your child's work to their class learning community for all to see, including their teacher.

Seesaw is for work only and there is no expectation that all work is shared, this would be unmanageable; don't forget, answers are uploaded the following day to problems set so that you can check work at home.

Again, here are the direct links to each year group's community classroom:

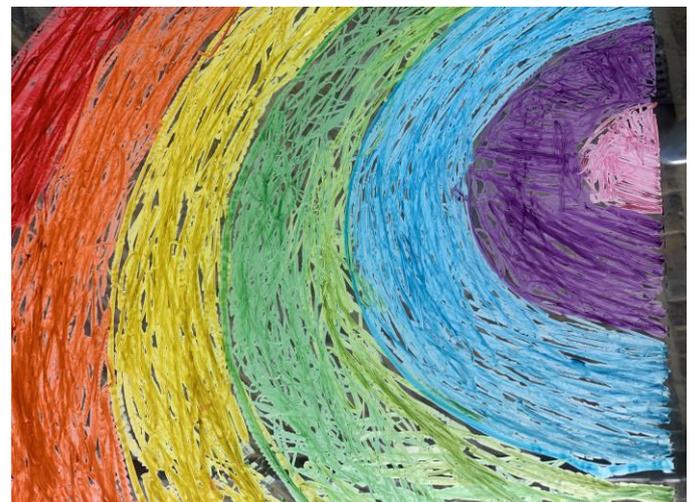
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All KS1 and 2 children have their passwords to access Purplemash for their computing, while KS2 have also got passwords for Read Theory and Times Table Rockstars; reception and nursery children do not have log-ins for these platforms.

For ongoing support with home learning or any other matter please contact us via info@arkfranklinprimary.org. The school office will not be open to visitors for the duration of Franklin's closure, but we will be available remotely, that is, via email and telephone.

Last week, class teachers, or a member of Franklin's leadership team, called all children at home for a catch up. Please note that these calls will show on phones as no caller ID, as most are being made by staff who are off site.

Thank you to those who sent through pictures and ideas of yourselves engaged in great activities with your children, to supplement home learning for all. Below are two wonderful images sent in by the Curry family: they blew a bubble towards all their Franklin friends and decorated one of their windows with a rainbow to make all smile.



While Dylie and June set themselves the challenge of bridge-building with all their loose change...



Meanwhile, Helen Crocombe, mother of Austin and Maeve sent us in a favoured poem for this week's Times:

Spike Milligan - The ABC

"Twas midnight in the schoolroom
And every desk was shut
When suddenly from the alphabet
Was heard a loud "Tut-Tut!"

Said A to B, "I don't like C;
His manners are a lack.
For all I ever see of C
Is a semi-circular back!"

"I disagree," said D to B,
"I've never found C so.
From where I stand he seems to be
An uncompleted O."

C was vexed, "I'm much perplexed,
You criticise my shape.
I'm made like that, to help spell Cat
And Cow and Cool and Cape."

"He's right" said E; said F, "Whoopee!"
Said G, "'Ip, 'Ip, 'ooray!"
"You're dropping me," roared H to G.
"Don't do it please I pray."

"Out of my way," LL said to K.
"I'll make poor I look ILL."
To stop this stunt J stood in front,
And presto! ILL was JILL.

"U know," said V, "that W
Is twice the age of me.
For as a Roman V is five
I'm half as young as he."

X and Y yawned sleepily,
"Look at the time!" they said.
"Let's all get off to beddy byes."
They did, then "Z-z-z."

We would love to feature poems from adults or children each week, originals will take precedence, please forward to the info account.

Last week we put out the call for a larder recipe each week, in lieu of our cookbook which will now be delayed; no one heeded the call; so I will inflict on you a recipe of my own for chicken soup.

Ingredients: 1 onion, 3 chicken thighs, red pepper, leeks, sweet potato, butternut squash, spinach, pint of chicken stock (I prefer Telma), ½ cup pearl barley, black pepper, parsley and thyme, to taste.



Method: fry the onion for five mins until soft, add the chicken thighs and fry for five mins each side to seal, add all further ingredients, bar the spinach. Bring the soup to the boil, then turn down and simmer for at least 40mins, to ensure the chicken is thoroughly cooked.

Remove the chicken thighs, and discard all bones and skin, reserving the chicken meat. Meanwhile, allow the soup to simmer for a further 20mins to ensure the pearl barley is cooked through. Return the meat to the soup, stir in the spinach, put the lid on and turn off the heat, leave for ten mins to allow the spinach to wilt. Serve with fresh bread.

NB Miss Love in year six wishes to learn to cook, so she is up to the challenge of trying all our larder recipes, we will post her attempts each week...so please send in your recipes with a photograph to the info account for inclusion in future editions. 😊

Thank you so much to Lucy Holland, who answered my call for parent contributions to the Times. Lucy is mum to Hansel in Year One and Evie in nursery and writes a weekly column in the Financial Times answering reader's questions on personal finance, her topic this week is:

**What does coronavirus mean for your finances?
By Lucy Warwick-Ching, Financial Times reporter**

The coronavirus pandemic has hit the UK hard, not only impacting on thousands of people's health, but having a knock-on effect on people's finances.

For people concerned about their immediate financial situation, getting help early is key so I've pulled together a Q&A to help you see what you might be eligible for:

I'm struggling to keep up with mortgage repayments because of coronavirus, what can I do?

Most banks and building societies have announced extra help for customers hit by the pandemic. This includes mortgage payment holidays for homeowners for certain periods of time, while they get back on their feet. It's likely the lender will spread your outstanding payments over the outstanding term of your mortgage, so you will see an increase in your monthly mortgage payments when they start up again. But your credit rating should not be affected.

I rent my property but my income has dried up, will I be evicted?

Don't worry, you can't be evicted for three months, and landlords can get help too if they are struggling too. New rules mean landlords won't be able to start new eviction proceedings for at least the next three months. Landlords are now eligible for a 3month mortgage payment holiday if their tenants are experiencing financial difficulties.

It's coming to the end of the tax year and I can't pay my tax bill, what can I do?

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has a set up a phone helpline to support businesses and self-employed people worried about not being able to pay their tax due to coronavirus. Call 0800 0159 559.

I have a big overdraft and am worried about how to pay the interest?

Some banks have announced measures to help their customers through this tricky financial time. HSBC is giving customers a £300 overdraft buffer. Barclays is waiving fees for a month. Metro bank is too.

What about my energy bill - I'm worried I won't be able to pay it?

The government has launched an emergency package with energy suppliers to ensure customer – many of whom will see their energy bills rise significantly because they are now staying at home – won't face any additional hardships during the outbreak. That could include taking payment breaks or reducing the amount you pay, giving you more time to pay and, potentially, access to hardship funds. Ofgem has also said no credit meters will be disconnected during the outbreak.

Is there any financial help for council tax bills in this tricky time?

Local authorities will receive a grant of £500m – split between them – to support economically vulnerable individuals and households. This is expected to provide council tax relief for families struggling financially. Some councils have indicated that they won't pursue enforcement action if people can't pay but don't take that for granted - talk to your local authority as soon as possible.

I'm showing symptoms of coronavirus and am self isolating - will I get paid?

Sick pay policies will vary from company to company with many offering regular pay if you're off sick. But if you work in a job that does not have paid sick leave or does not offer sick pay, you may be able to receive statutory sick pay. New rules allow workers to be paid from their first day off work, as opposed to having to wait till the fourth day. Statutory sick pay is set at £94.25 a week for 28 weeks although employers can pay more if they want to. To qualify for this you need to be earning at least £118 per week.

What if I lose my job due to coronavirus?

The good news is that the government has said that instead of laying people off, companies can keep them on the books and they will pay 80 per cent of the wages of worker who are furloughed, up to £2,500 a month. Furloughed workers are those whose employers cannot cover staff costs due to coronavirus, and as such they have been asked to stop working, but have not been made redundant.

The scheme will be backdated to 1 March and will initially last for three months but can be extended if necessary.

Will this still work for me? I was just changing jobs?

If you lost your job due to coronavirus, or were in the process of changing jobs, furlough might still work. Before support was announced, panicking firms were laying people off. If that happened to you, speak to the firm - they are allowed to take you back on, to furlough you.

Am I eligible for universal credit?

If you are self-employed and are off work due to the coronavirus you can claim Universal credit. Universal credit is available to people be they employed, self-employed, unemployed and on low incomes, as long as your household's savings are under £16,000. It's not much, at £251.77 a month for a single person under the age of 25, but you could also be eligible for the housing allowance which could mean you get over £1,000 a month in some cases.

I am not sure which benefits apply to me - where should I go for help?

If you are struggling, get free, independent help from one of the debt charities such as StepChange Debt Charity which has created a useful guide around financial issues and the coronavirus at stepchange.org/debt-info/debtand-coronavirus.aspx or call 0800 138 1111. Other organisations include Citizens Advice - contact your local CAB or visit citizensadvice.org.uk and the National Debtline on 0808 808 Turn2us (turn2us.org.uk) offers lots of advice around benefits and financial uk

I'm self employed but my work has dried up - is there any help for me?

Yes, potentially. The government has said it will pay up to 80 per cent of average monthly profit over the previous three years up to a cap of £2,500 a month – paid to anyone with profit of up to £50,000 a year. It covers self-employed people for at least three months.

Those who have fewer than three years of accounts but at least one year will still qualify, but HMRC will simply use whatever accounts they have to estimate their profits. But only those who have submitted a tax return for 2018/19 will qualify. This will be available by the beginning of June at the latest. HMRC will be in contact and will ask you to complete an online form. Once you have completed it, the money will be paid direct into your bank account.

I run a small business - what help is available?

Small businesses that need cash to pay rent, suppliers or staff or to buy stock can access government backed loans of up to £5m at supposedly 'attractive rates' - for a maximum of six years, with no interest due in the first 12 months. Businesses can apply via participating lenders listed on the British Business Bank website.

Businesses that are receiving small business rate relief will also receive a grant of £10,000 that will be paid out by local authorities. Business owners will be paid automatically so do not need to apply for the grant themselves and funding will start in April. Plus, all retail, leisure and hospitality companies will be exempt from business rates for 12 months, regardless of their rateable value. Eligible firms should do nothing; the discount will apply to their next tax bill in April 2020.

Headteacher's thought for the week:

You have power over your mind – not outside events. Realise this, and you will find strength.

You are in our thoughts everyday.

**Warmest regards
Janine Ryan
Principal of Ark Franklin**