



Newsletter

18 January, 2021

Aspiring to achieve our best: moving forward together!

t 01884 252445 | e admin@heathcoat.devon.sch.uk

Available online at www.heathcoat.devon.sch.uk

CHAT foodbank

Even if you have never used a foodbank before you may find yourself needing our help. There are many different reasons you may need to need some help:

- Unexpected change of circumstances
- Benefit delay or changeover to universal credit
- Relationship breakdown meaning income greatly reduced
- Struggling with debts
- Children home over the school holidays

Because of Covid-19 you cannot turn up at our office without an appointment so if you need food you need to contact us in plenty of time. Please call us on 01884 255606 between 10:00 - 12:00 Monday – Friday and we will assess your situation and see how we can help best. We may offer a crisis pack or a monthly booster pack.

We will also talk to you about how we can help you manage in the future because we know a foodbank is not a long term solution.

[Foodbank - Churches Housing Action Team \(CHAT Charity\) – Bringing hope to homeless people, CHAT Charity, Devon \(chatmid.org\)](#)

Brew Monday 2021



This year, Samaritans are putting a positive twist on what's often considered the saddest day of the year by encouraging people to take part in 'Brew Monday'.

You're being asked to arrange a 'virtual cuppa' and have a chat with someone who might be feeling lonely today.

The charity hopes the virtual cuppa initiative will combat loneliness

[Brew Monday 2021](#) | [#BrewMonday](#) | [Stay connected with a virtual cuppa \(samaritans.org\)](#)

Learner of the week at School



Reception Laila
Year 1 Fausta
Year 2 Lloyd
Year 3 Kaitlyn
Year 4 Nicola
Year 5 Maisie
Year 6 Casiy

Learner of the week at Home



Reception OB
Year 1 Freddie
Year 2 Freya H/K
Year 3 Thomas
Year 4 Ella
Year 5 Ethan
Year 6 Maddie



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Diary Dates



Brew Monday
Today, 18th January

Term Dates



Spring Half Term
Monday 15th February-
Friday 19th February

Last Day of the Spring Term
Wednesday 31st March

First Day of the Summer Term
Monday 19th April

May Bank Holiday
Monday 3rd May

Summer Half Term
Monday 31st May –
Friday 4th June

Speech, Language and Communication Needs

Speech and Language Link Parent Portal

Speech and Language Link have put together some games and activities for parents/carers to use at home to encourage their child's talking and listening. The speech activities develop a child's ability to hear speech sounds and the language activities focus on supporting understanding of language. For more information please visit

<https://speechandlanguage.info/parents/activities>

Local resources and information

Don't forget to also keep an eye on our local websites for further examples of activities and information about resources and support available in Devon including from Children, Family Health Devon and Babcock LDP:

[Devon Local Offer- speech, language and communication](#)

[CFHD resources and information for parents/carers](#)

[CFHD preschool speech and language FB page](#)

[CFHD school age speech and language FB page](#)

[Babcock LDP resources for parents/carers/pupils](#)

Are you contact details up to date?

Update Your
Contact Info



It is really important that the school has your correct contact details, as we will be keeping in contact with parents via email and telephone during this lockdown period.

If you have recently changed any of your contact details including email address, please could you advise the school office to enable us to keep your child's records up to date. It is the responsibility of parents to keep this information correct at all times.



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Message from Miss Higginson



We hope you all had a restful weekend and a break away from home learning. Thank you all for your hard work and patience with the home learning. It has been a learning curve for all of us. The staff are enjoying seeing the children on Google Classrooms class meets and looking at the work they are submitting through Google Classroom and Tapestry. We have received positive feedback about the home learning so far.

Having a routine can help to structure the day and help children to understand what they need to do each day. It is important to break up the day with some down time, such as playing a game or going for a walk.

We understand that many of you are working as well as completing the home learning and that you may have days that are more difficult than others. Please just let the class teacher know that you haven't been able to complete all the work or that you may not finish by 3pm. We will understand and the teachers will look at the work the next day.

As part of safeguarding procedures during lockdown, it is important that we keep in contact with all our children via Goggle Classroom, Tapestry, emails or phone calls. If we haven't had contact with you via Google Classrooms or Tapestry, we will try and contact you via email or telephone just to make sure you are all well and to see if there is anything we can do to help. If we are unable to make contact, we will pop to the house and knock on the door. Following Local Authority guidance, if we are still unable to contact you or if we continue to remain concerned, we will need to escalate our concerns to either the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) or social services depending on the level of our concerns.

Thank you once again for your continued support.



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Blue Peter on YouTube

Blue Peter is the longest running kids TV show in the world and we are uploading videos that are suitable for 5-11 year olds. We have world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking how to's, inspirational films, gaming, celebrity appearances, dance routines and music performances. We also feature ways of getting a Blue Peter badge, behind the scenes footage and extra content about our incredible presenters Adam, Lindsey, Mwaksy, Richie and Henry the Blue Peter dog.

If you are interested in this, please go to <https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter> and subscribe (it's obviously completely free to subscribe!) and don't forget to watch the live programme on CBBC at 5.00pm every week, or on BBC iPlayer.

A promotional graphic for the Blue Peter YouTube channel. At the top, the text 'YOUTUBE.COM/BLUEPETER' is written in large, bold, blue letters with a white outline. Below this, the 'Blue Peter' logo is displayed in a stylized font. In the center, four presenters (three young men and one young woman) and a beagle dog are posed against a blue background. A red 'SUBSCRIBE' button is located in the upper right corner. At the bottom, the text 'SUBSCRIBE NOW!' is written in large, bold, blue letters with a white outline. A small blue square icon with a white person symbol is in the bottom left corner.



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Advice for Parents, from Professor Jo Boaler

Do you remember how excited your children were about maths* when they were young? How they were excited by patterns in nature? How they rearranged a set of objects and found, with delight, that they had the same number? Before children start school they often talk about maths with curiosity and wonder, but soon after they start school many children decide that maths is confusing and scary and they are not a “math person”. This is because maths in many schools is all about procedures, memorization and deciding which children can and which cannot. Maths has become a performance subject and students of all ages are more likely to tell you that maths is all about answering questions correctly than tell you about the beauty of the subject or the way it piques their interest.

Given the performance and test-driven culture of our schools, with over-packed curriculum and stressed out students, what can parents do to transform maths for their children? Here are some steps to take.

1. Encourage children to play maths puzzles and games. Award winning mathematician, Sarah Flannery reported that her maths achievement and enthusiasm came not from school but from the puzzles she was given to solve at home. Puzzles and games – anything with a dice really – will help kids enjoy maths, and develop number sense, which is critically important.

2. Always be encouraging and never tell kids they are wrong when they are working on maths problems. Instead find the logic in their thinking – there is always some logic to what they say. For example if your child multiplies 3 by 4 and gets 7, say – Oh I see what you are thinking, you are using what you know about addition to add 3 and 4, when we multiply we have 4 groups of 3...

3. Never associate maths with speed. It is not important to work quickly, and we now know that forcing kids to work quickly on maths is the best way to start maths anxiety for children, especially girls. Don't use flashcards or other speed drills. Instead use visual activities such as <https://bhi61nm2cr3mkd9k1dtaov18-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/FluencyWithoutFear-2015.pdf>

4. Never share with your children the idea that you were bad at maths at school or you dislike it – especially if you are a mother. Researchers found that as soon as mothers shared that idea with their daughters, their daughter's achievement went down.

5. Encourage number sense. What separates high and low achievers is number sense – having an idea of the size of numbers and being able to separate and combine numbers flexibly. For example, when working out $29 + 56$, if you take one from the 56 and make it $30 + 55$, it is much easier to work out. The flexibility to work with numbers in this way is what is called number sense and it is very important





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6. Perhaps most important of all – encourage a “growth mindset” let students know that they have unlimited maths potential and that being good at maths is all about working hard. When children have a growth mindset, they do well with challenges and do better in school overall. When children have a fixed mindset and they encounter difficult work, they often conclude that they are not “a math person”. One way in which parents encourage a fixed mindset is by telling their children they are “smart” when they do something well. That seems like a nice thing to do, but it sets children up for difficulties later, as when kids fail at something they will inevitably conclude that they aren’t smart after all. Instead use growth praise such as “it is great that you have learned that”, “I really like your thinking about that”. When they tell you something is hard for them, or they have made a mistake, tell them: “That’s wonderful, your brain is growing!”

** I use maths, rather than math, partly because I am from the UK and we say maths there and partly because maths is short for mathematicS, it is a plural noun. Mathematics was chosen to be plural to reflect all the many parts of mathematics - drawing, modeling, asking questions, communicating, etc. Math sounds more singular and narrow (Do the math, usually means do a calculation!), and I prefer to keep the idea that maths is a multidimensional and varied set of mathematical forms and ideas.*

For more resources see <https://www.youcubed.org>

Online Courses for
Students, Teachers and Parents

<https://www.youcubed.org/category/mooc/>

Student Page

<https://www.youcubed.org/students/>

Parent Page

<https://www.youcubed.org/parents/>

Recommended Apps and Games

<https://www.youcubed.org/category/teaching-ideas/math-apps/>

More Information about Brain Science

<https://www.youcubed.org/think-it-up/>

Jo’s Mindset Book

<http://tinyurl.com/qxhngsh>

Maths Tasks to Do At Home

<https://www.youcubed.org/tasks/>

Summer Camp Video

<https://www.youcubed.org/youcubed-summer-math-camp-2015/>

Week of Inspirational Maths Curriculum

<https://www.youcubed.org/week-of-inspirational-math/>