



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

26th February 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you had a restful half term break, even if there was little opportunity to stay dry when outside!

Following the Government's announcement earlier this week, mainstream schools will be re-opening their doors to pupils from Monday 8th March. Our schools within the Learn to Live Federation have remained fully open throughout lockdown and we continue to welcome your child into school. Some children who are vulnerable and currently shielding, may still need to remain at home in line with medical advice you have been given. If you feel your child needs a phased return, please discuss this with your teacher as we wish to support you to get your child back into school.

Our staff continue to carry out lateral flow tests twice weekly. The Government has now advised Secondary age students will also be tested. We have no plans to test pupils in school as this would be intolerable for the vast majority. It is possible however that some older students may be able to tolerate lateral flow testing, but the decision for students (Secondary and FE only), to participate in lateral flow testing would be a decision for the family and young person and will not be imposed upon anyone. If you wish to consider access to tests for your young person, please discuss this with your teacher in the first instance.

Covid-19 Email Address – Thank you for continuing to inform us of any updates or results of Covid tests via the covid19@learntolivefederation.co.uk email address. This inbox continues to be closely monitored.

Survey – The [National Children's Bureau](#) (NCB) is running a national consultation to gain the voices and understand the experiences of children and young people with SEND during the Covid pandemic. There is an online survey, with 8 questions, that can be completed by parents, and children and young people. The link to the survey is here: [CYP/Parents survey](#)

If you could complete the questions with your child AND as a family, this would be great - every single survey counts and your responses are anonymous. The deadline to complete the survey is Monday 8th March, so you have just over a week to complete it. This is a really worthwhile and valuable consultation as it will inform DfE responses for recovery and it is vital that our children and young people are heard loud and clear! Thank you very much.

Next week, Amy Ley, our Advocacy Lead at Ellen Tinkham, will also be working with our "Champions for Change" students who are speaking to researchers from the NCB about this survey. Advocacy Champions at school will also support other students to participate in the survey too.

SPACE* Tech Loans for Young People - Space* are currently offering tech loans for young people. You can apply for a chromebook or other tech including a mouse or headphones for a current device, or phone handsets (not SIM cards). The items supplied are to enable greater social connectivity, the ability to join online youth or support groups and for school work.

You will require your own internet connection before any loans can be considered. All tech supplied is available until 31st July 2021 after which time it will be recalled or the situation reviewed. To make an initial application, please follow this link <https://forms.gle/8dy5fSQj7to2FUUpC8>



PTFA - Ellen Tinkham School and College PTFA will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) via Zoom on Friday 5th March at 10.30 am.

The PTFA plays a vital part in the school community and all parents, as automatic members of the PTFA, are invited to support the AGM. This is your chance to hear how the funds you have helped to raise have been used for the benefit of the students at our school and college.

The AGM is also an opportunity for you to elect the PTFA Committee, to represent the association throughout the forthcoming academic year. The current PTFA is a mixture of staff, governors, parents, grandparents, carers and friends that work together for the benefit of Ellen Tinkham School and College. None of us are specialists in fundraising and new members would be most welcome. If you would like to attend, please click on this Zoom meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87232769882?pwd=SzJHZFdtS3ZMdGpEN1FQemZhSHRYUT09>

Meeting ID: 872 3276 9882

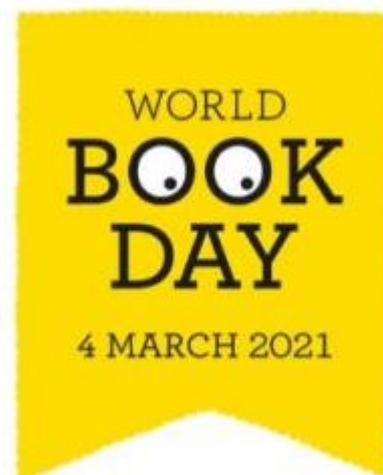
Passcode: 637668

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to speak with the Chair of the PTFA, Sarah Wallace, please email sarahewallace78@gmail.com.

We really look forward to seeing you on Friday 5th March at 10.30 am!

World Book Day is coming up next Thursday, 4th of March 2021. The focus of World Book Day is to promote reading for pleasure and enjoyment. This year we want to ensure everyone can take part, including those pupils who are currently learning from home.

We are also aware that finding a costume would be much trickier this year with the current lockdown! So, on the Hollow Lane site, we are suggesting a theme of 'Bedtime Stories'. Pupils can wear their pyjamas to school, or at home, share books and tell stories. It would be lovely if pupils in school could bring in a favourite book to share with their class, and those at home could send in a photo of themselves with their favourite bedtime story.



At the College, the students will be delving into books for even longer than a day! World Book Day on the 4th of March 2021 will be the start of the College's World Book **Week** when students will be celebrating all things literature! Please remind your young person to bring in a piece of writing to share – a favourite book, poem, song lyrics ... Students in College and those at home will be joining in with activities promoting reading for pleasure and enjoyment.

To launch World Book Day, there's a cool book-themed rap by [MC Grammar - World Book Day](#). The World Book Day website also has lots of great resources for all ages including activities to download and a great set of audio books which are free to access www.worldbookday.com

If everyone could also make a £1 donation, this will be put towards purchasing additional fiction and factual books for our own school libraries to help encourage everyone to pick up a book. Thanks for your support.

Free School Meals: Voucher Distribution – The school has just received notification that free school meal vouchers will be distributed to selected families to cover the Easter holiday. When we have more information, we will pass this on to you.



Date for the Diary – Friday 19th March 2021!

More details will be released soon ...

Have a great weekend!

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqui Warne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jacqui Warne
Executive Head