

## Newsletter



### Bags2School

Thank you to everyone who filled a bag2school and bought it in to be collected. Together we raised an amazing £183.60! A big thank you to FORO who organised the event.

### Facebook

Please remember to visit the school Facebook page. The address is below:

<https://www.facebook.com/Red-Oaks-Primary-School-108839344030965/>

either follow the link, or search for "Red Oaks Primary School Swindon" in Facebook.



The Facebook page is used to communicate important whole school information e.g. upcoming dates and events. In order to receive regular updates please 'Like' the page. Please note that the page is for information only and does not replace the usual means of communication with your class teacher. Please continue to contact your class teacher using the usual means. Many thanks.

### Reading over the Christmas Holidays

Your child will receive a new library book this week to keep over the Christmas holidays. It is really important to keep children reading during the school holidays so that any skills and enjoyment they have for reading continue, even when they are not at school. Reading is something to enjoy all the time, not just during term time.

The website link below shares some top tips on how to encourage reading throughout the holidays. Reading during this time can really be an enjoyable and a productive tradition for the entire family. Maybe you can post what you get up to on Class Dojo?



Happy Reading! <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/.../reading-in-the-holidays>



### Online Safety - How to have a Happy Digital Christmas

This has been a year like no other - and it promises to be a very different Christmas too. But that doesn't mean it can't still be special. Though some activities will be off limit this festive season, the digital world offers countless ready-made replacements.

Parentzone have put together a guide to the ways in which families can bring Christmas online and still have a wonderful break.

[https://parentzone.org.uk/article/digital-xmas?utm\\_source=Parent+Zone+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=df9abe0b87-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_allat17sept\\_uk\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_1ee27d9000-df9abe0b87-179255649](https://parentzone.org.uk/article/digital-xmas?utm_source=Parent+Zone+Newsletter&utm_campaign=df9abe0b87-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_allat17sept_uk_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1ee27d9000-df9abe0b87-179255649)



### Last Day of Term Timings - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

The last day of term is now **TOMORROW** please note that finishing times will be as usual.

Classes that start at 8.30am will finish at 3.00pm

Classes that start at 8.45am will finish at 3.15pm

Nursery - timings as usual - morning finishes at 11.30pm/afternoon finishes at 3.10pm

### Blended Learning

In the event of a partial or full closure Red Oaks Primary School will continue to provide blended learning for all those affected. Please refer to the scenarios and protocols document for the details. (Attachment to newsletter). Pre-recorded lessons will be sent out daily via class Dojo.



### Face Coverings

Please ensure that you wear a mask or face covering when dropping off or collecting from school. We aim to make all children and adults feel safe as they come into school. Can you ensure that you also keep children with you whilst waiting to enter the building so that they are not mixing with children from other bubbles. Many thanks.

### Go Sketch Commission

Following on from the great success of the Go Sketch workshop last weekend. If you wished to do other art courses, a money off voucher and link is below. Also, as an attachment to the newsletter is a free cartoon faces how to guide!

A promotional graphic for Go Sketch Club. It features a central character with blonde hair and a red beret. Surrounding her are various drawings: a robot, a pink flamingo, a colorful parrot, a square-faced character, and a hand drawing a face. Text elements include '£5 off' in a jagged speech bubble, '50% goes back to school' in a jagged speech bubble, 'Click link nearby' in a jagged speech bubble with a blue arrow, and 'GO SKETCH CLUB' in large, colorful letters. At the bottom, a purple banner reads 'Feel Good Creative Drawing Courses'. There is also a drawing of an ostrich's head on the left.

<https://www.gosketchclub.com/courses?affiliate=uYFoWk&coupon=REDOAKS>

### Advent Calendar Messages

Don't forget to check on the website for the virtual advent calendar. Each day, you can click on the corresponding number and there will be a new short video from a member of staff or group of children who will bring some Christmas cheer. These will be shown in class but please also click on these with your children at home. <https://www.redoaks.org/home.php>



### Upcoming Dates

17/12 School breaks up for Xmas Hols @ 3.00pm and 3.15pm depending on start times.

**2021**

- 4/01 School reopens
- 11/01 Y4 Egyptian Dress day





## **A MESSAGE FROM DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE BRIGADE**

Christmas is a really fun time of the year, but it is also a time when we need to remember to take care to be fire safe.

We are delighted to have our Christmas Safety Story "It Was the Lights Before Christmas" read by Firefighter Paul (with a very special guest making an appearance at the beginning and end) for younger children to listen to. We would be very grateful if you were able to send the attached link to the website home to parents/carers of your younger children.

<https://www.dwfire.org.uk/education/christmas-safety/>

As well as the story you will also find a Christmas Glue and Make with ideas for art and crafts to do at home, along with some colouring activity sheets. In some areas we are running a Christmas Trail, details of which can be found on the website.

Please also find attached a colouring sheet with safety information for parents/carers which we would be very grateful if you could share with your older children. We would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas time from all at Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and we look forward to working with you in the coming year to help keep your children safe.

Tess Cross  
Education Coordinator South  
Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

## Keep your family fire safe this Christmas...

### Smoke alarms:

- ✓ "Beep beep beep, test once a week". Test your smoke alarms to make sure they are working
- ✓ Make sure you have enough batteries for Christmas Day - do not be tempted to take them out of the smoke alarm

### Get out, stay out, call 999:

- ✓ Keep escape routes clear of trip hazards
- ✓ Your escape routes may change if you block doors with Christmas trees
- ✓ If you are staying away from home or have guests make sure everyone knows the escape plan
- ✓ Make sure keys are near doors and windows

### Stay fire safe:

#### ❖ Fairy lights

- ✓ Check your Christmas tree lights conform to the British Standard (BS EN 60598) and are in good working order
- ✓ Turn off fairy lights when you leave the home or go to bed
- ✓ Do not overload sockets
- ✓ Always use an RCD (residual current device) on outdoor electrical equipment
- ✓ If you have a real Christmas tree; keep it watered so it doesn't dry out

#### ❖ Cooking

- ✓ Keep the area around the cooker clean and tidy
- ✓ Do not leave cooking unattended
- ✓ Turn off the cooker when you have finished

#### ❖ Candles

- ✓ Never leave lit candles unattended, keep away from children, pets and make sure cards and wrapping paper can't fall on them

#### ❖ The chimney

- ✓ Make sure the chimney is swept so Father Christmas can get down if he is coming that way! (also sweep before you have a fire)

Colour in the red nosed reindeer smoke alarm.

Ask your grown up to share this on Instagram and tag @dwfirerescue and use #reindeersmokealarm

Sniff! Sniff! Sniff!  
Beep! Beep! Beep!



Test your smoke alarm  
**EVERY WEEK!**



DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE



Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Re: School Closure**

Dear Red Oaks families,

Yesterday the Government asked schools to consider making the last day of term (Friday 18th December) an Inset Day. The Park Academies Trust Board have considered this and agree the last day of term for pupils will now be Thursday 17th December at 3pm and 3.15pm respectively. They have also agreed that Friday 18th December will count as an additional Inset Day due to the exceptional circumstances of this academic year. Consequently, Inset Days in the calendar for the rest of this school year remain unchanged.

School leaders are required to engage in the NHS Track and Trace process for the first six days of the holidays and as such, if a child tests positive during this time, parents must make contact with the school on [admin@redoaks.org.uk](mailto:admin@redoaks.org.uk). I will then endeavour to track all the relevant staff and children who have been in contact. Fingers crossed that this is no one! Closing early will mean that the school's engagement in the Track and Trace process will end on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

We recognise that short notice may be a problem for some parents and we were in two minds to close early because of this. However, due to many other schools and settings in Swindon closing early, this would impact on our own staff.

I'm sure you will agree that our staff have done a fantastic job this term working in very difficult circumstances. I have also had many conversations with parents who are concerned about possibly having to isolate over Christmas and there being a higher chance of this the longer their children are in school. I do however appreciate that this is relatively short notice and we hope it doesn't impact too much on those of you who may have to work on this day.

Please see the following advice over the Christmas break:

- **Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.**
- **For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.**
- **School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. Where a schools last teaching day is on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December, there should be no pupil contact tracing asks beyond Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December.**
- **For the first 6 days after the end of term, schools are not asked to be on-call at all times. Staff responsible for contact tracing may designate a limited period in the day to receive**



Executive Principal: Mrs R Surch  
Deputy Head Teacher: Mr J Lee  
SENDCo : Mrs K Clarke

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Tel: 01793 493920  
Email: [admin@redoaks.org.uk](mailto:admin@redoaks.org.uk)



notification of positive cases and advise close contacts to self-isolate (this can be done by text or email). The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and PHE advice service are available to support with any queries you have about positive cases in your school.

- Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.

I hope you will agree that the right decision has been made and that you have a wonderful Christmas break.

Best Wishes

Rachel Surch  
Executive Primary Principal



## Red Oaks Primary School Blended Learning Scenarios

In the event of a partial or full closure Red Oaks Primary School will continue to provide blended learning for all those affected. This two-page guide explains the different tiers of lockdown for the school and then explains the protocols that staff, parents and children must follow.

### Scenarios

There are 3 main scenarios that we have placed into 3 Tiers. There are as follows:

#### **Tier 1 – A child is self-isolating at home**

- Online learning through existing platforms (EducationCity, MyMaths, SPAG.com, Purple Mash)
- Work pack sent home with paper-based learning
- School website – links to learning resources in each year group (insert link)

#### **Tier 2- A class bubble or year group is closed or asked to self-isolate**

***(if the teacher is well please see below. If the teacher is unwell, please see Tier 1. In some situations, the other year group teacher will produce the online lessons, unless they are unwell too.)***

- Daily pre-recorded online lessons in English and Maths (4 days) and 1 pre-recorded online lesson in another subject e.g. Science, History, Geography (this will vary dependent on the week). These lessons will be posted on the schools private YouTube page and links sent out via Class Dojo
- Online learning through existing platforms (EducationCity, MyMaths, SPAG.com, Purple Mash)
- Work pack sent home with paper-based learning in addition to online lessons e.g. Art, P.E and Music ideas
- School website – links to learning resources in each year group (insert link)

#### **Tier 3 – Partial or full school closure (school stays open for key worker and vulnerable children \*\*)**

- Daily pre-recorded online lessons in English and Maths (4 days) and 1 pre-recorded online lesson in another subject e.g. Science, History, Geography (this will vary dependent on the week). These lessons will be posted on the schools private YouTube page and links sent out via Class Dojo
- Online learning through existing platforms (EducationCity, MyMaths, SPAG.com, Purple Mash)
- Work pack sent home with paper-based learning
- School website – links to learning resources in each year group (insert link)

\*\* Key worker and vulnerable children in school will access the online learning sessions in school where possible.

## **Red Oaks Primary School Blended Learning Protocols**

In line with government guidance and our safeguarding policy this blended learning protocol sheet will provide staff, parents and children with a list of do's and don'ts. Our aim is to provide clarity of expectation during periods of blended learning as well as keeping all children safe.

### **Teachers**

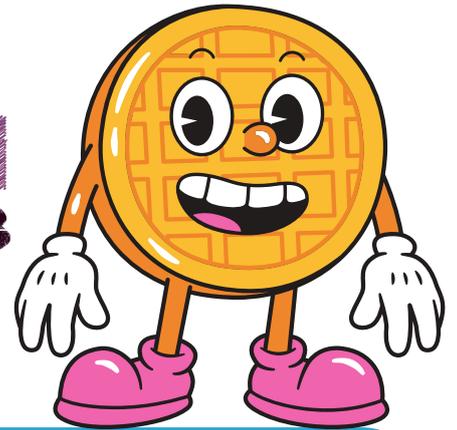
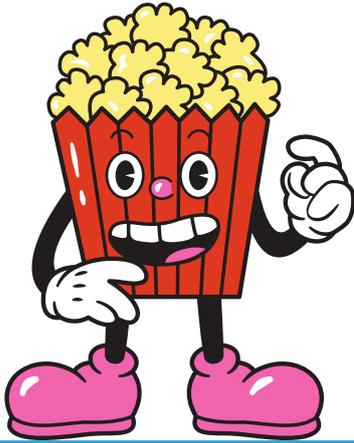
- Will provide online curriculum content that is relevant and allows children to progress
- Lessons will be adopted where necessary to address any misconceptions in learning that may have arisen during the week
- Will display the same standards of dress and conduct that they would in the real world
- Will acknowledge children's learning via Class Dojo and comment where necessary to take learning forward.
- Will not communicate to parents or children later than 4pm.
- Will contact anyone who is not regularly participating in the online learning via telephone call to check in. Teachers will be able to identify these children via Class Dojo.
- Senior Leaders will quality assure online learning lessons
- Senior leaders will oversee the uploading of the online lessons and make sure this is done in a timely manner
- Senior leaders will support staff and parents with any concerns or safeguarding incidents that may arise.

### **Parents**

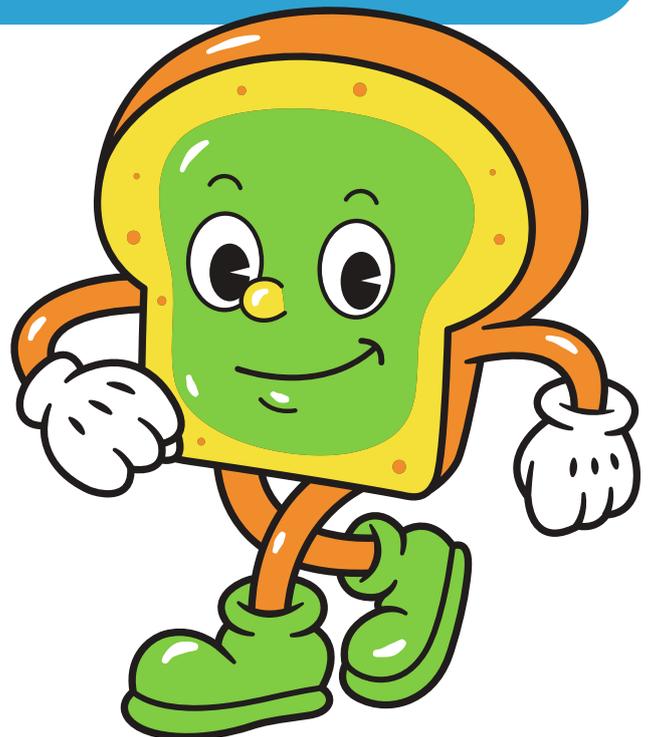
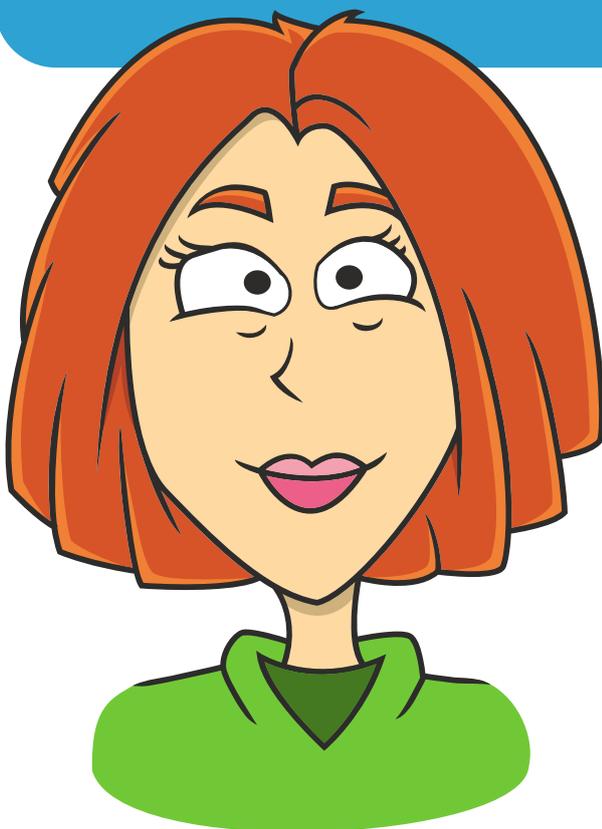
- Will communicate through Class Dojo or via year group emails. If the communication is sent later than 4pm then the teacher will respond the next working day.
- Will post their child's work online via Class Dojo- this will then be acknowledged by the class teacher.
- Try to establish a routine for you child. This may look different in each household. Because lessons are recorded, this gives more flexibility with learning time.

### **Children**

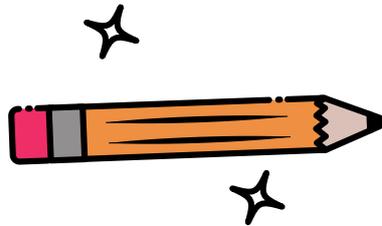
- Be ready to learn when you start the online lesson. Make sure you have everything you need- pens, pencils paper etc
- Make sure you are comfortable and in a good position to learn.
- Try and access the lessons at the same time everyday – a routine is very important, just like being in school. Your routine may not be the same as your friends.
- Try to take regular exercise and eat a balanced diet
- Try to always have a good night's sleep
- Try you best!



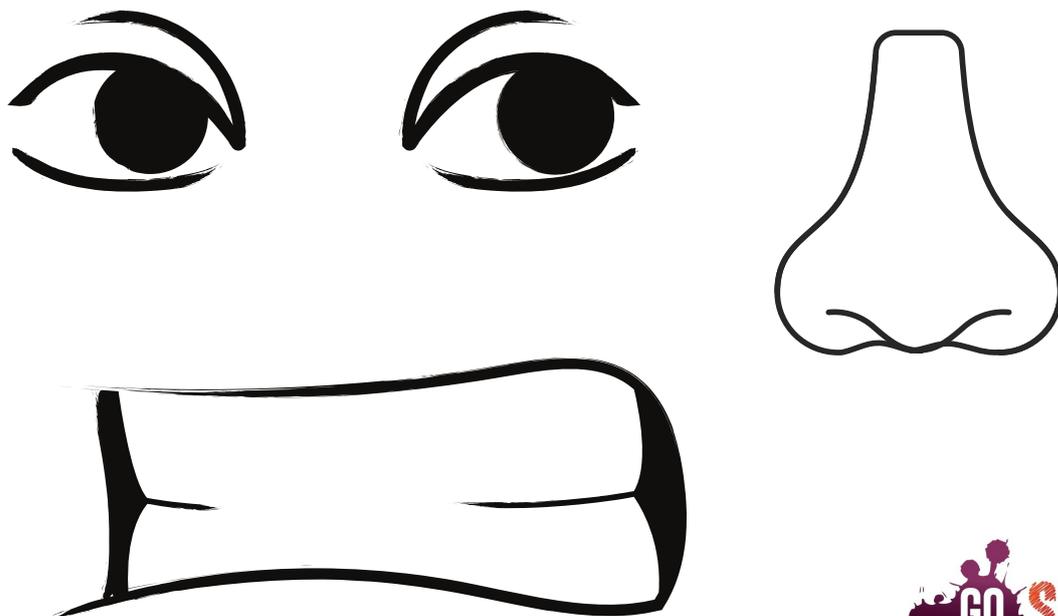
# Cartoon Face Helpsheets

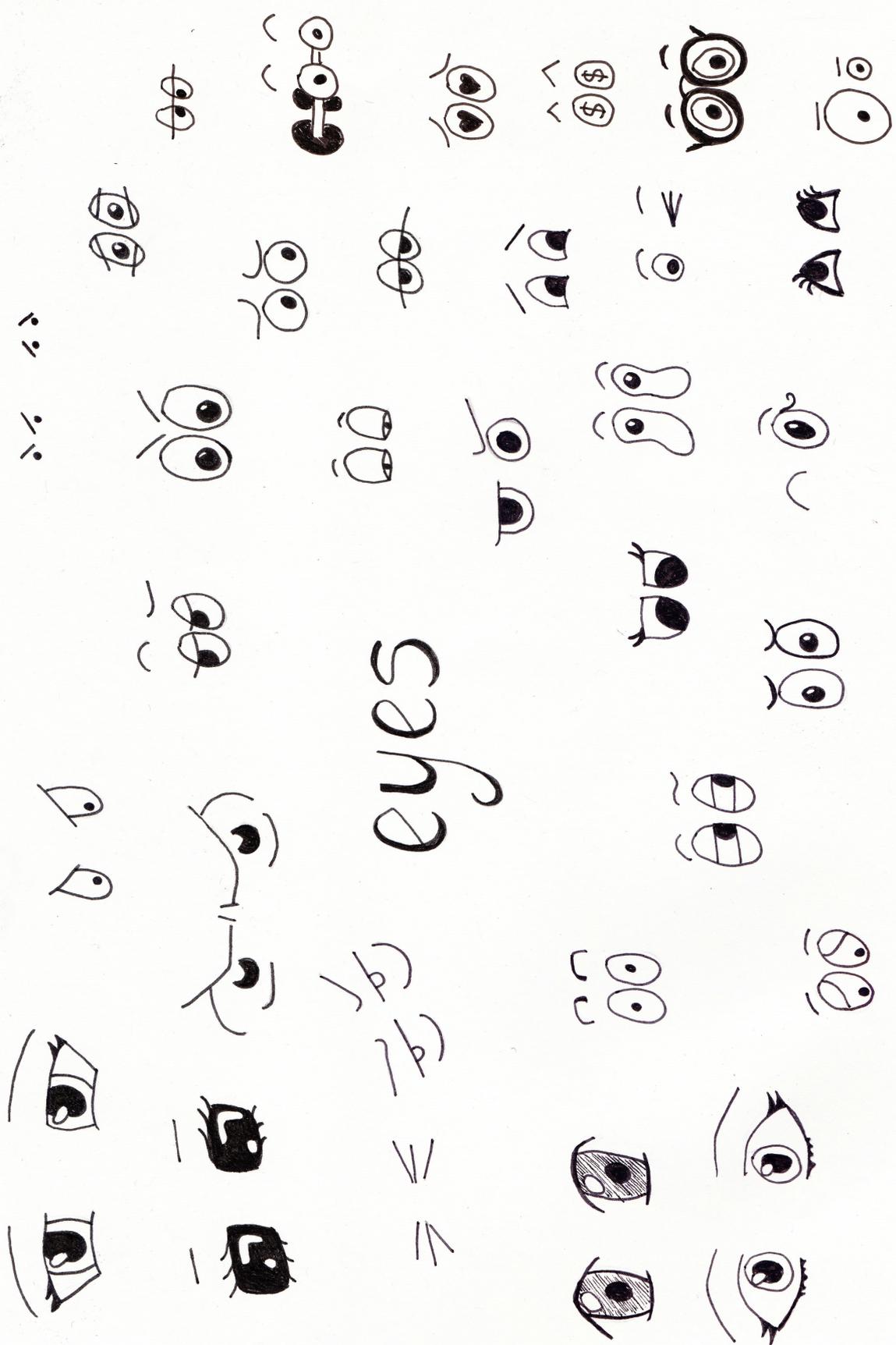


**Need help to create a  
cartoon character?**

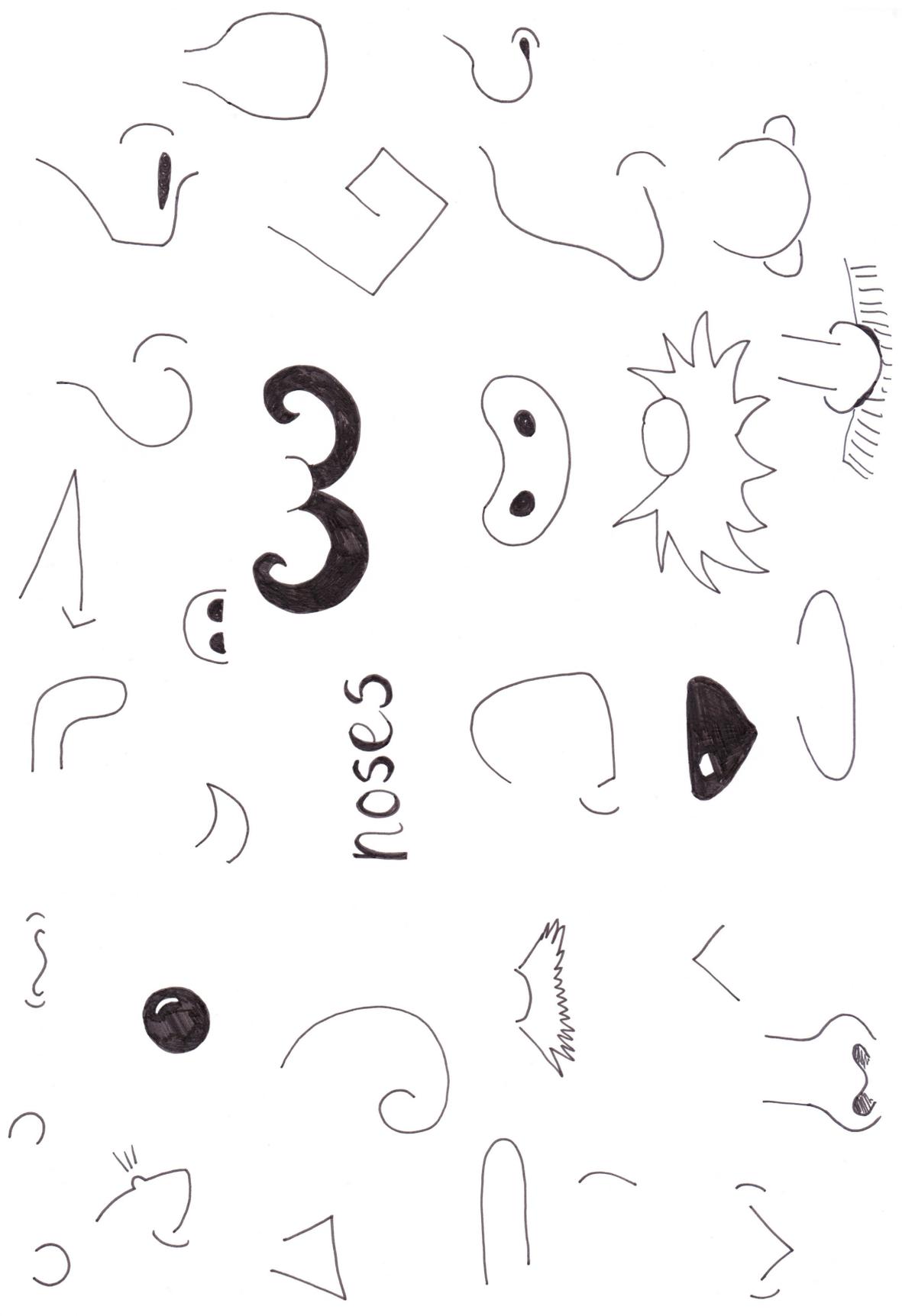


**Choose some eyes, a nose  
and a mouth on the next  
few pages and make up  
the rest!**





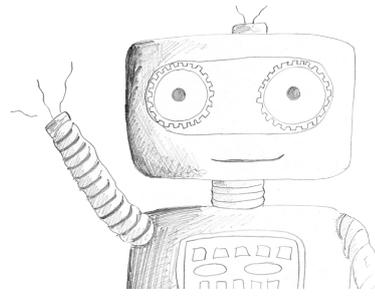
eyes



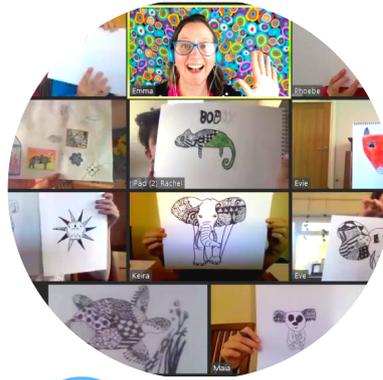
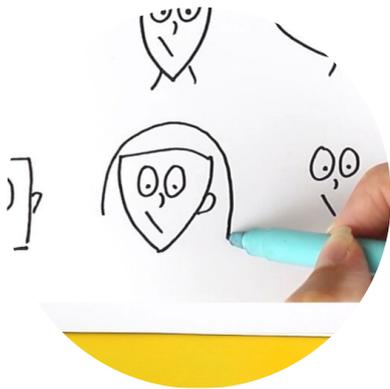
noses



# Mouths



# GO SKETCH CLUB



**Pre-recorded  
Courses**

**Arty Parties**

**YouTube  
Channel**

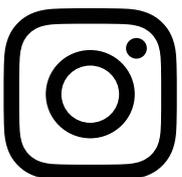
**Sketchbook  
Adventures**

**Live Drawing  
Tuition**

**Fun Sketch  
Friday**



**gosketchclub.com**



**go.sketch**



**Go Sketch Club**

