

Weekly Newsletter

27th March 2020.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, thank you so much for your patience, flexibility and collaboration this week. Considering such huge changes, in a short space of time, our whole school community has come together with resilience and great team spirit.

Your feedback in these early stages of transition is much needed. If you have any questions or concerns at all please contact your class teacher/tutor in the first instance. We are always here to help and support.

I'm sure there will be a few bumps in the road ahead that we will overcome together as we all adapt. The school and teachers are very eager to get things right for both your family life and our pupils. We do not want to overwhelm pupils with activities and work, so feedback is important in order that we can pitch activities and learning at the correct level of challenge, understanding and amount for your child. Going forward over the next few weeks we will follow the structure of:

- **Monday** – teachers will '**check in**' with pupils and parents via email with activities for the week.
- **Wednesday** – teachers will '**check-up**' to see how things are going (some Parents/Carers may prefer email, some a phone call).
- **Friday** – teachers will '**check out**' with feedback and plan your child's next steps for the week ahead.

Every child and family is different, so please liaise with your teachers about what you need to make things manageable. Teachers are available daily during work hours. If your child does not engage with the activities set, please do not worry. The teacher will adapt them to meet your child's needs. We are all in a period of transition. We do not want parents to feel any pressure or to be overwhelmed. At this stage in the journey it is about keeping children calm, well-regulated and happy while adapting to this big change.

We are keen that activities can be holistic and multisensory in order to be adaptable to the home environment, family life and engage children. Some children will respond well to a clear structure and daily routine while others will need a more flexible approach. Exercise, playing, interacting, life-skills and just enjoying time with your child is important, balanced alongside school work, and we are mindful of this. Also it is important to give your child time in the day to 'just be' and engage with their self-chosen activities and interests. Teachers will build your child's particular interests into their learning wherever possible.

Learning can take place in all sorts of ways. For example, maths through measuring and weighing out ingredients for cooking and reading through following instructions in a simple recipe. Learning through playing games, online resources and through IT have worked well. Joe Wicks exercises on You Tube at 9.00 am have been popular - with staff also! My son taught himself to juggle using You Tube this week. Now he is teaching me – this is not my best talent I have to say!

Our pupils have coped incredibly well this week and made us proud. Your photographs and video clips have been very much appreciated. For this first newsletter, I won't share photographs of pupils in the interest of data protection. However, going forward if you are happy your child's photograph is shared in the newsletter, please let teachers know. It is a great way for us all to stay connected, share ideas and successes.

I thought I would share a flavour of some of the great things that have been happening at home this week ...



Squirrels class and Ms Webster have planted sunflower and runner bean seeds – the competition is on for whose will grow the tallest!



Forest School activity: we were delighted to see photographs of this cycle ride including matching written vocabulary to different textures found within the natural world .



Cooking with Ms Walker – older pupils have made some delicious family suppers this week.



- ❖ Mrs Robins, our midday lunchtime supervisor, has been joining in with the Joe Wicks exercises on You Tube each morning.
- ❖ Some of KS 4 have practised writing job application letters to a future employer
- ❖ Some of Ms Calis' class have helped make lunch, baked biscuits and cakes using measuring as part of maths and listened David Walliams reading stories from his website at 11am
- ❖ Ms Thulbourn's class have been practising their arithmetic
- ❖ One of our pupils in Hawks class built a model of the Titanic - including the crafting of the cardboard structure, paper mâché and painting of the ship!
- ❖ Our youngest pupils have been sorting and matching and some parents are transferring and setting up classroom work stations and work systems at home
- ❖ Mr Eames has set up technology for older pupils to communicate directly with their teachers
- ❖ Youth Dreams Project, our PE providers have recorded and sent some great exercises to follow along with at home
- ❖ Our school sports coaches have put together physical development activities to help with the skill of balance.
- ❖ A huge thank you to Mrs Toshack and Mr & Mrs Edwards for organising food boxes yesterday for some of our families in need.

Finally, Mrs Tully and the admin support team will be sending home Government supermarket food vouchers for our free school meals pupils, which those families should receive today.

On reflection, a challenging but positive first week on the beginning of this journey together.

We wish all our families a safe weekend.

Best wishes,



Mrs Laura Ives
(Head of School)