



ST. ALDHELM'S VA CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL
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HEADTEACHER: Mrs P Cohen

Thursday 26th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope everyone is keeping safe and well at home during this unsettling time. I'm reassured by the wonderful acts of kindness and thoughtful behaviours that are being shared nationally on social media, locally within our communities, and individually within families at homes. I hope you are looking after each other, keeping patient and seeking advice, friendship and support from those you love, from a distance.

School Closure

It was an abrupt end to our usual school provision with the school closure last week but I have been so impressed by the way everyone in our school community has responded. Staff have been amazing at being very patient and flexible as things have changed on a daily basis. Parents have taken on board the closure and brilliantly and quickly made changes to their usual routines, only going out to work where absolutely necessary and staying at home with their children. Children and parents have shown how they are embracing home learning by taking on board the information sent out and having a go. It is really important that no-one feels under pressure to carry out everything on offer as there is so much online it can be overwhelming. As adults and children, we need to make an adjustment to what's going on around us - the changes have happened so quickly. If you are spending lots of time outdoors in your gardens, whilst it's nice this week, and less time recording and writing in a book, that is absolutely fine. You may find your child is a bit reluctant at times - please take the lead from them and engage them when it feels right.

Staff are enjoying seeing all the Tapestry and ClassDojo posts and portfolios. It is wonderful that we set this up, when we did in September, as it's been a great way to communicate. It's been good to see how people are adapting and responding to their children's interests and learning in such a variety of ways - you are doing a great job! Bear with the system if it goes down from time to time, the internet does seem to be struggling – you can always come back to it later.

Coronavirus Information for Children

It may be that you have sheltered your child from hearing and seeing too much of what has been broadcast through the media. However, there's no doubt that some children have overheard news and conversations, understand why school is closed or have parents who are working in front line jobs. Please see below some resources that you may find useful to share or help you with your child, particularly if they are asking lots of questions and you're not sure how to answer.

Coronavirus Story - See attached PDF for this story

Newsround Two doctors, often used on the children's news site, answer children's questions - visit <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51861089>

Parental Guidance This link is good for any parents who aren't sure how to go about talking to their children about the Coronavirus. It will help if you are wondering how much you should share or whether you should try to shield your child completely - visit <https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>



Public Health England Advice

You will no doubt have heard that the Prime Minister reinforced the single most important action we can now all take, in fighting coronavirus - **to stay at home in order to protect the NHS and save lives**. The campaign to raise awareness of this message has launched across TV, radio as well as digital and social channels. Public Health England have created the posters below to help amplify the message across all communication channels and it is more important than ever that we adhere to the lockdown measures:



30 Seconds

This is a vital update about Coronavirus.

To help save lives, stay at home.

Anyone can spread Coronavirus.

Only leave your home for the following reasons:

- To shop for basic necessities
- To pick up medicine
- To travel to work if you absolutely cannot work from home
- To provide care to those who need it
- Or to exercise

Always stay 2 metres apart

Do not meet others outside your household, even friends and family

Stay Home. Protect the NHS. Save Lives

Thank you to all our parents who are Key Workers. You have really helped us whilst we set up and organise our child care provision by replying promptly to emails, booking in only where absolutely necessary and sending so many thoughtful messages of support to our staff team. Following the lock down measures this week, we appreciate all those families who are adhering to the measures in place, especially those who are juggling shifts as well as keeping their children safely at home. We know that it is in the best interests of your children. We recognise the amazing front line work you are doing and are grateful on everyone's behalf that you are caring for those in need at this time.

Our staff team has been reduced this week as we adhere to the rules of only working at school if absolutely necessary. Those who are unable to be in school, due to being in a vulnerable category, are continuing with the necessary work behind the scenes, whilst three groups of staff have been set up to work on rotation, to enable the Key Worker child care provision to continue. We are taking each day at a time as no-one is able to foresee what may be ahead. I wish to thank our fabulous staff team for continuing their work so admirably, as well as caring for their own families and home lives.

Parent Questionnaire

Our school governors and senior leadership team usually try to engage parents in a questionnaire during this mid-point in the year, as we truly value your feedback. It is important that we gather your views to understand how effective our provision is and to inform our plans for going forwards. Although this is a really bizarre time to be asking you, we thought we would continue to send it out, especially as many people are experiencing more time at home than ever before. Therefore, whilst school is relatively fresh in your minds, please follow the link or QR code and take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3Uw9KN7IV06XfymowbLfeloR2DBMFehBrfRHvaGNpaJUMVFIMzRYRkIVOVRKUDdFSDZHMIQxMFM3MS4u>

The questionnaire will be open until Friday 3rd April 2020.

We would appreciate as many responses as possible to give a full picture of parental and carer feedback.



I will continue to send out updates and information, as and when I think it would be helpful, but also to keep communication and support going between home and school. Please do take care of yourselves, adhere to the advice 'Keep Safe, Save Lives' and keep in touch, from a distance, with your friends, families and us at school.

Kind regards

Pippa Cohen

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