

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

Friday 3rd April 2020

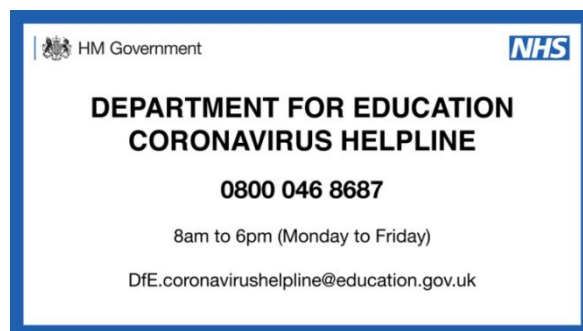
Dear Parents and Carers

I hope everyone is having a good week and making the best of their time at home. The Home Learning posts and comments to class teachers have shown that you are being creative, flexible and very willing to have a go at all sorts of activities - this is all we can ask of anyone! It has been great to hear from those of you who are incorporating family daily exercise, food preparation, meals and cooking, hoovering, cleaning and DIY jobs into the daily routine. It would seem that children are picking up some good skills and knowledge from being a part of this - obviously some are too young to get too involved. We only encourage this if everyone can stay safe!

School Closure

School remains closed until further notice due to the government lockdown measures - this could be longer than we were anticipating. We will keep you informed as soon as anything changes.

The helpline is there for parents to call, should you wish to. They have said they are receiving an overwhelming number of calls so please be patient with them.



Key Worker Provision

Provision for children of Key Workers and those considered vulnerable continues to be available through the Easter break. School will not be open on the bank holidays (Good Friday and Easter Monday). Please continue to book children in for sessions each week via email to Mrs Horton.



Easter Holidays and Home Learning

Holidays are holidays! We will not be setting any work for the next two weeks as this will allow children (and you!) to have a break. Teachers will be using this time to also have a break and plan for next term. Should your child wish to continue with some sort of routine, you are welcome to carry on using any Pick and Mix activities or any of the wealth of online resources available. Teachers will continue to monitor Tapestry and ClassDojo over the next two weeks (not weekends or Bank Holidays) but there is no expectation of you to post if you are taking the time to have a break.

Looking After Yourself

I know that many children and families are finding this situation a struggle. There is a strong likelihood that people will encounter new social, emotional and health matters. We are available to provide or signpost help and I know teachers are communicating with families about concerns they may have. In addition, there is a lot of support online for parents, carers and children. The following web sites are a good place to start, but please do contact us in schools or your child's class teacher, if you are struggling to find the help and support you need.

<https://www.childline.org.uk>

<https://mindedforfamilies.org.uk/young-people>

<https://cypmhc.org.uk>

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk>

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/support-for-parents/children-s-mental-health>

<https://contact.org.uk>

I am also attaching a Useful Contacts for Parents and Carers document, which may be helpful for information should you need further support.

Free School Meals

A new national Free School Meals voucher scheme has been launched by the government, to support children in receipt of Free School Meals. If your child is on our Free School Meals list and therefore eligible for the scheme, you will already have received an email from me about the offer.

Safeguarding Policy Update

Following national guidance, we have updated our Safeguarding Policy to take into account the unusual circumstances we find ourselves in. The new document, **St Aldhelm's COVID-19 Safeguarding Policy Addendum**, can be viewed on the school website.

Keeping Your Child Safe Online

The DfE have updated their information for parents and carers to include a section on keeping children safe online. It provides links to online resources that will help support you in keeping your children safe online.

Where can I go to get support to help keep my child safe online?

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

Parent Questionnaire

We have received some responses to our questionnaire. Please take a moment to complete it, it should only take a few minutes and we do need to hear your views to shape how we move forward. As we were a little late getting it out to you we will extend the deadline to Sunday 5th April. Follow the link below:

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

Thank you



Thank you to all parents and carers who have taken the time to write to teachers or me personally, with kind messages of support. I know this a difficult time for everybody, but I think that the two-way supportive approach is helping enormously and keeping everyone going.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Easter.



Kind regards

Pippa Cohen

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