

Pilgrim Primary Academy

Headteacher: Mrs L Meek (BA Hons, PGCE, NPQH)

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Friday 27th March, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, thank you for your patience while we navigate these difficult times. It has been a week since school closed in response to the Covid-19 virus and lots has happened in this time and things are continuing to change, both nationally and for school. I intend to send a weekly briefing out every Friday to keep you up to date and to communicate any key messages.

Home Learning

Most of our children seem to be accessing the home learning activities **via Google Classroom**. Thank you for all the support you are giving to your children to get these activities done – I know that it is not always easy to help your children complete their learning, especially in households where there are younger children or babies who also take up lots of your time.

The children have been uploading some great learning and the teachers have particularly liked seeing photos of other home learning activities that you have been completing. Keep up the good work!

Please note:

- Please do not let the home learning activities take over! You will know when your children (and you) have had enough so don't feel under pressure to complete absolutely everything. I would ask that you try to do any Reading, Writing and Maths activities as a priority and some of the topic activities when you can
- If you are having problems with logging on to Google Classroom or you do not have the login information, please email techsupport@ppsonline.org for support with this
- Easter Holiday Learning: We are not setting official work for the holidays but many parents have been in contact to request some things to keep children busy and occupied whilst they are having to stay indoors. So:
 - **Google Classroom:** Easter/Spring activities will be uploaded by teachers here
 - **Our Website - pilgrimprimaryschool.co.uk** - has lots of links to games in the **Learning Zone** (under the Learning tab). Go into the Infant or Junior area. We have added some new ones labelled '**Extra Home Learning**'. This will take you to loads of great websites for you to pick from

Critical Worker Families

School is now running an 'Educare' service for children of Critical Workers who have no other safe childcare facility whilst they are working. If you are a Critical Worker, school remains open for your child(ren) and will **remain open throughout the Easter Holidays**. Please note the following:

- Children coming to Educare will need to fill in a small amount of paperwork before being accepted (please contact the office).



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- We can offer **9.00am – 3.15pm free care. Breakfast Club (8.00 am) and Pirates Club (3.15-5.45pm)** is still running – this will still be at a small charge
- In order to plan appropriate staffing, please ring school and **book ahead for all sessions**

Free School Meal Information

This week we have kept the FSM service running in the form of lunch boxes to pick up from school. We know that this is far from ideal and that many families are not in a position to pick them up from school on a daily basis. We are going to move to sending families FSM vouchers as soon as possible but until then **we will keep the FSM lunch box service running throughout the Easter Holiday period (next 2 weeks)** so please keep coming to school to pick up your lunches.

When we move to vouchers, it is possible that these will be emailed to you. It is very important, therefore, that school has an up to date and working email address for your family. **If you have received this letter by post and you are a family in receipt of FSM, please let us know an email address for you ASAP**, in order to ensure vouchers can be sent as soon as they are available.

Finally, I hope that you and your family are keeping as well. However, these are very difficult times and it is natural to feel anxious and worried, both about now and the future. I just wanted to say that, although school has officially closed, myself and all the staff are still here for you. Please, please pick up the phone to us if you have a problem, however big or small, and we will try to help. We are still here as part of your wider community and we want to do everything we can to ensure that at some time in the coming weeks or months we all get back to school fit, well and happy. Please stay safe and look after yourself and your family.

Sending very best wishes from myself and all the staff here at Pilgrim,

Mrs L Meek

