

Wednesday 25th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

WE HAVE ASKED PARENTS TO KEEP THEIR CHILDREN AT HOME, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, AND FOR SCHOOLS TO REMAIN OPEN ONLY FOR THOSE CHILDREN WHO ABSOLUTELY NEED TO ATTEND.

Thank you once again for taking on board the above advice and for reviewing your situations in light of the most recent Government announcement. The safety of our families and the wider community is paramount and your efforts to work with us through these difficult times have been much appreciated. Numbers are dwindling by the day in school; we only have 10 children today. This shows that people are taking their responsibilities very seriously and offers hope that we can work together to beat this terrible virus.

Keyworkers

Please note that we are reducing the times that we will open from **Monday 30**th **March**. The school will continue to provide childcare on **weekdays between 8am – 4pm** as directed by TDET. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but feel sure you will understand the importance of ensuring that we operate within strict guidelines to keep the children here safe. The new request forms have been emailed out today so please return these before Friday to support with our planning for next week.

Free School Meals

During this difficult time for everyone, we remain committed to providing free school meal entitlements. We are unable to provide actual meals due to social distancing so have provided a voucher for use in local supermarkets. An allocation of £25.85 has been issued, which covers your free school meal entitlement from Wednesday 25th March to Friday 3rd April. On opening your voucher, you can select a preferred supermarket where the voucher can be redeemed. Families should have received these via email or mobile phone today but if this is not the case and you are entitled to this support please contact the office.

Home Learning

All children have been provided with home learning activities to take them up to Friday 3rd April. The staff will not be setting any further work for children ahead of the Easter holidays. If you have any questions about the home learning packs please email them to the School Office and we will endeavour to ensure that class teachers respond as quickly as possible.

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continued:-

EYFS

Thank you to all the parents and children in Dolphins and Turtles who have done some fantastic work over the last few days. It has been a joy to share it all through Tapestry. We are currently looking at ways we could try and use a similar approach across the rest of the school if the current situation is prolonged so watch this space!

School Blog

The staff at school are really missing the children and their regular contact with families. Today we started a blog on the school website so that we can keep in touch with you. You can find it by following this link: https://www.wpa.education/blog/?pid=20&nid=53

Communicating with Staff

Please could I ask parents and children not to try and contact members of staff using their personal data. This is a direct breach of our communication policy and places staff in a difficult situation. Whilst we appreciate that these are unusual circumstances, we must ensure that professional boundaries are maintained, and staff privacy is respected. If you would like to get in touch with a member of the team you can do this by contacting the School Office. Emails and telephone messages are checked daily and we will ensure that all communications are passed on. If you would like to speak directly to someone then it is best to telephone between 8am-10.30am on weekdays when Mrs Bradley or Mrs Harding are in the office. You can call between 10.30-4pm but please be patient as there will be a skeleton staff on site answering calls and caring for children.

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns these can be emailed to safeguarding@wpa.education.

Rainbow campaign

Children are being encouraged to 'spread hope' by creating rainbow pictures and displaying them in windows at the front of their houses. We would love it if you would encourage your children to join in and send pictures of their rainbow images to us. EYFS parents have already started sharing these in Tapestry but please feel free to email any images to us and will we collate them to share with the community.



News from school

It has been a peculiar few days in school with only a small group of children and staff. The mood has been happy though and staff have worked really hard to provide lots of variety in the children's days. It has helped that we have been blessed with such glorious weather as we have been able to spend a lot of time outside. Maintaining the 2m safe distance has been interesting and somewhat unnatural but we have got some brilliant Maths work out of it and choreographed some interesting moves to avoid each other. I can feel a new dance craze coming on or if not, certainly a new style of wonderful walking!

The staff at the Trust head office have been incredibly supportive throughout the week to ensure that everyone is well looked after and fed. I must particularly mention Michael Dove and the catering team for their services to ensure all children and staff have received hot meals each day. It is at times like these when we need to come together as a community, and we have certainly felt the benefits this week of being part of the TDET family.



It has been nice for me to contact a few of our families and speak to them directly, including some of the children who confirmed they are not missing us at all! Human to human interaction is so important which is why we are working so hard to maintain this to the best of our ability. One positive thing is that we are learning a whole new set of skills we didn't have before, including video conferencing. Life is never going to be the same again for any of us but this crisis is an opportunity to learn new skills and connect with our families and friends in a completely different way.

We will continue to update you through regular communication and will maintain our weekly newsletter for all parents. Our thoughts are with all of you at this very difficult time and please remember there is always somebody at the end of the phone or an email if you need support.

Stay safe and well.

With very best wishes,

Becky Ford

