



Ovingham CE First School

Weekly News

1st May 2020

As ever in these unusual times, we very much hope this communication finds you safe, well and healthy. As we work through week 6 of the lockdown, we are aware there has been a lot of speculation in the news about when schools will begin to open to pupils and how this will happen. At the moment we have no additional information on when school will re-open and therefore our focus is on continuing to provide work and support for our families.

Stay Safe

Mr Hudson

VE Day

Next Friday the country will be celebrating VE Day. In school we shall be wearing red, white and blue and hearing about what VE day means.

We are also encouraging all those taking part to undertake the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' at 3pm on the 8th May, from the safety of their own home by standing up and raise a glass of refreshment of their choice and undertake the following 'Toast' – "To those who gave so much, we thank you," using this unique opportunity to pay tribute to the many millions at home and abroad that gave so much to ensure we all enjoy and share the freedom we have today.

Home Learning

It has been lovely to catch up with some of you by telephone this week and it is good to hear that you've all settled well in new routines. Many of you have said that you are enjoying the work we release and you've been involved in some interesting and fun home projects too. The work we provide aims to help parents with some sort of structure through the day so do as much as your new situation allows. We know that every family is different and understand how younger siblings and new work arrangements can affect home learning. We do not want you to worry about falling behind with school work or feel pressured that you're not completing all the work set. These are unprecedented times and there is no such thing as others 'racing ahead'. In these strange times, all we ask is that you continue to stay safe, enjoy activities together, do as much work as your home situation allows and return to school with healthy minds and bodies. Your teachers will help you with the rest when we see you again.

Take care and stay safe.

New Exercise Books

Extra exercise books are now available to collect from the school reception area. Books will be left out and you can collect between 8am and 3pm. Please email us on admin@ovinghamfirst.northumberland.sch.uk if you have any questions.

Miners Lamp Community Café & Hub

The Miners Lamp Community Cafe & Hub have contacted us to let us know how they can help your families and our community. Many families may be struggling, not only those whose children are eligible for free school meals, but also families where one or both parents have seen a reduction in income due to furlough.

The hub is open three days per week, Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays between 10am and 1pm. They operate a pay as you feel market and often have a large selection of items available donated by supermarkets and their charity partner Fareshare. This includes bread, fresh fruit and vegetables and other items such as yoghurts and dairy. These items are available all just for a donation.

You are also encouraged to refer any families to the hub for support from their food bank. They are able to provide a food parcel which is sufficient to help those facing food poverty or food insecurity to get them by for around 3 days. Items in our food parcels include dried and tinned foods, toilet roll, cleaning products and sweet treats for the children. They do also include some fresh produce and other items that are received when available such as bread, fruit and veg.

Their charity the Friends of Eastwoods Park are able to do this through the generous kindness of our community who have donated either food or money to help them continue to run the food bank during this difficult time.

School can contact them on your behalf, or you can contact them yourself via their Facebook page The Miners Lamp Community Cafe and Hub. Alternatively, you can signpost families in need to them for support.

Food parcels are delivered on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays any requests received by noon on those days are delivered to doorsteps that day by volunteer drivers.

Phone calls & emails to schools and parents re: 'free' IT kit

We have been made aware of schools and/or parents being contacted directly by companies with offers of 'free' IT kit for pupils either by phone, email or social media. Parents, in particular, have been targeted.

In general, there isn't any cold-call free kit on offer and parents and schools could be getting themselves into unfortunate agreements. Please let us know if you are approached by any organisation, we will then pass this information on to the DfE.