



The Avenue Primary School,
7 The Avenue,
Warminster, Wilts, BA12 9AA
Tel: 01985 213383

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Newsletter 3rd April 2020

I hope you and your families are all well and have settled into some kind of routine over the last fortnight. This is a difficult time for all, where normal life has been put on hold and we are all trying to adapt. Things we took for granted such as popping to the shop, checking in on elderly or poorly relatives and sending children to school have all changed. However, I am well-aware of how resilient the Avenue community is so have no doubt that you are all supporting your friends, families and each other in making these changes.

Staff have been working hard to ensure that they are keeping in contact with the children in their class who are at home as well as providing for children of keyworkers and vulnerable children in school. As time goes on, this will become more routine and we will make sure we do all we can to communicate with you. I hope this newsletter gives you some information about what is going on amongst our amazing Avenue community and we aim to continue to produce a fortnightly newsletter during the closure.

Thank you for all you are doing to support your children and also for the many kind words of support that have been fed back to school during term 4. Today is officially the end of term 4 and we would normally be breaking for Easter. Teachers will not be setting work and sending their regular emails over the next two weeks, although they may leave you with some activity ideas should you wish to use them. They will be back in touch regarding work the week of Monday 20th April. In the meantime, keep safe, look after each other and please follow the Government advice.

Miss Thomas

Twitter

We have just set up a new Twitter account for our school https://twitter.com/primary_avenue, please follow us! We hope to use this over the coming weeks as an additional way to keep in touch. At the moment we do not have parental permission to post images of children on Twitter so will be in touch with you shortly about how you can give permission. In the meantime, we will post updates and pictures that don't include children.



Home Learning

Teachers have been in regular contact with their classes over the last fortnight and some of you have started sending in photos of the work the children are doing. It is great to see the children engaged in a variety of different learning in their home environments and the quality of work is looking really good.

We realise it cannot be easy adjusting to working from home every day with your children, so thank you for everything you are doing and do remember, your child's teacher is there to support you via email should you need anything.



Teachers are keen to hear from all children in their class so do encourage your children to email them (email addresses are on the class pages on our website) and send in any photos of their work.

Work in School

A small group of children are still attending school either because their parents are keyworkers or they are classed as vulnerable. These children have also been working hard on both the work set by teachers for all children to complete at home and other activities.



Support for Families

We realise this will be a difficult time for families. Mrs Leeson is regularly checking in with some of our more vulnerable families. If you are worried about anything and need some support, please contact school and we will get back to you. You can either phone the school number (01985 213383) or send an email either to the office (admin@avenue.wilts.sch.uk) or through your child's class teacher (email addresses are on the class pages of our website). Mrs Leeson has a wealth of knowledge of agencies who can support families and will be happy to share this with you.

Online Safety

Many of your children will now no doubt be using the internet either to support with school work or for fun. Please make sure you have appropriate parental controls on the devices your children are using and check regularly what they are doing. For further information on online safety, the Government recommend the following websites for parents:

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

The Government has also recommended the following websites for children to use regarding online safety.

- [Childline](#) - for support
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content
- [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse

I would strongly suggest you view these websites yourself before sharing with your children to ensure they are age-appropriate. For EYFS and KS1 children, they are probably a little advanced, however, there may be useful information for parents on them.

Reports

You should have received your child's report via email this week. If you did not, please contact either the office or your child's class teacher and we will arrange to get it to you.

Military Moves

We are aware that many of our military families were expecting to move between now and the end of the academic year and that many of these moves are now on hold. If this affects you, please do not worry – your child's place at The Avenue is secure for as long as you need it. However, it would help us if you could keep us informed of any changes to your moving date to help us plan for September. You can do this either by phoning or emailing the office.

