



Shirley Community Primary School

Shirley Pre-School

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1st April, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all keeping well, and your families with you.

We are living through very difficult times at the moment, and it is important we try to stay positive and all do our best to pull together and support our nearest and dearest during the challenging days and weeks ahead.

This email replaces my usual Headteacher Newsletter, and is the final communication from school to home for this term. Things have changed so much over the course of this term - when I wrote to you in January at the beginning of 2020, the World was a very different place. However what remains the same and will always continue to be so, is our commitment to you and your children - for their learning, wellbeing and overall happiness. We really do hope everyone is doing OK as part of our 'Shirley family'.

Home Learning: Thank you for your engagement so far with our home learning activities. We have received some very positive feedback from many of you, and also some very useful suggestions on how we can improve what are are providing. Teachers have really appreciated finding out how the activities are going, having work returned and are also very aware of the challenges that learning at home can bring - to all family members.

We are at the early stages of this new way of working and learning - as are many of you - so we really appreciate your patience and flexibility, as we are being too, so that we can move forward and get this as we need it to be over the longer term.

Following on from your feedback, and also reviewing it ourselves as teachers and school leaders, we are looking at revising our approach to Home Learning, to make it as accessible to as many families and children as possible. This will be shared with you at the beginning of next term.

For now over the Easter break, please treat it as a break for your children, to give them the downtime and rest that all children need, to daydream, imagine and play. There is always time to read and enjoy reading and books for relaxation, and there are suggested open ended activities and challenges on our website should children wish to access these - however please do not send anything into school or expect anything from us until Monday 20th April, as teachers need a break too.



Coronavirus Updates

We continue to receive daily and sometimes twice-daily updates from the LA and Government on meeting the nation's needs from a school's perspective. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LA have been particularly helpful in supporting schools. They have produced a wide range of resources and information which can be accessed at the link below, including Coronavirus information in a range of different languages. Please look at this and pass it onto other families/friends you think would benefit from it:

https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronavirus-campaign-for-communities?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Staying open for Key Workers and Vulnerable children: We will continue to be open, all through the Easter break, and have a staff rota in place to meet everyone's needs. We have already spoken to many of you over the phone, but if you need childcare during the Easter break, please contact our School Mobile phone between **8 and 9:30am** on **07795 572304**.

Keeping Fit and Healthy!

Joe Wicks is the sensation that is sweeping the nation! He is providing fun workout videos for physical and mental wellbeing. If you haven't looked at them yet, please find out more here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-52015767/coronavirus-joe-wicks-keeps-children-fit-with-online-pe-classes>

You can see his latest workout here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEWcBIvqjDk>

Healthy Schools Cambridgeshire have also shared the following information and links with schools to go to parents:

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/> - launch of the new 'Every mind matters' campaign with good advice aimed at adults for mental wellbeing during isolation and coping with anxiety and worries.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health/> - aimed at families with advice on how to talk to children about COVID-19, balancing screen time and staying connecting with friends and family.

We would like to wish everyone all the very best over the coming days and weeks, and please have a Happy Easter.

Stay happy and stay safe.

All my best wishes

Mr Cattermole

