

# St. Andrew's C of E Primary School

Sand Street,  
Soham,  
Cambridgeshire,  
CB7 5AA



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we draw to the end of the school Easter Holidays, I would like to offer a huge thank you to all staff members who have been working daily both in school and from home over the holiday period. Our job has changed beyond all recognition but the team at St. Andrew's have adapted brilliantly with staff members going above and beyond on a daily basis. I am truly grateful for all their efforts. We have been open every day during the holiday period only having to close once when expected children did not turn up. I appreciate these are unprecedented times, but do please maintain open lines of communication with the school so that we can adhere to social distancing protocol as best we can.

I am sure you will all be aware of the recent announcement that lockdown restrictions in the UK will continue for 'at least' another three weeks as it tackles the coronavirus outbreak. Despite the speculation in the media about when, why and how schools might reopen, we have had no official notification or guidance on such a move. When we do, parents and carers can be assured that we will contact you directly via email. I am having frequent dialogue with DEMAT and the Local Education Authority to plan as best we can for the eventual reopening of school but, as I am sure you can all imagine, the uncertainty about everything means this task is rather difficult at present. Our staffing remains stable and we have the capacity to accommodate the increased numbers of Key Worker and 'Vulnerable' children anticipated over the next two weeks. Remember, those accessing the provision have been deemed eligible, please do not request a place unless you fulfil the criteria stipulated by the Department for Education.

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, teachers will resume interactions on Facebook and new learning activities for pupils will already have been uploaded onto the school website. We are constantly looking to refine and improve the resources we provide families without making them too overwhelming! We are particularly excited about new resources coming online on 27<sup>th</sup> April from 'White Rose Maths', which forms the basis of our own maths curriculum in school. They have teamed up with BBC Bitesize to produce daily lessons that can be viewed via any web-browser at home! Accompanying resources will of course be made available on the school website.

As we all adjust to our new way of working and learning, there will be things that go well and things that don't. There will be anxiety, worries, tantrums and the occasional meltdowns. Please try to remember that this is normal. We continue to update the Coronavirus section to our school website with information that may be of use. A list of useful links for supporting mental health for both adults and children will be uploaded this weekend. Please do find some time to take a look at these, particularly if you feel like you are struggling.

On Monday I will resume the daily story time and collective worship sessions which will be shared on the school website and Facebook page and teachers will continue to share resources and videos via Facebook too.

Whilst we have no timescale for how long school closures are likely to last, we continue to plan for the future to ensure that as a school community we emerge from this strongly and are ready to take on the future with the passion, enthusiasm and sense of community which truly characterises our school.

There will be an end to this – and I sense from all of the pupil, staff and parental messages, that when that end comes, we will be able to look back at our collective actions with pride and discover a redoubled determination to make the most of all of the opportunities

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Artsmark  
Silver Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



Excellence Nurture Respect Integrity Community Hope

that a great education affords.

Thank you, as always for your positive support of St. Andrew's School. We could not be prouder to be part of this community.

Stay safe.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr. M Harrison  
Headteacher