



MEADOWS FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No.29 1st May 2020

A Message from Mrs Hewitt

We hope that you are safe and well. Please rest assured that each and every one of you are in our thoughts at this time. We have been placed in a very difficult situation as we do not know how long pupils will be away from school, what access children have to internet, printers, resources and adult support with home learning. We do not want to set work that requires too much teaching input as we do not want to overburden families at what is already a difficult time. So please remember:

- 1) the main priority is the health and well-being of all of your family and any pupil who is unwell should not complete work whilst poorly
- 2) upon return to school, teachers will be adapting all planning to 'catch-up' lost key learning to minimise the impact of school closure/absence
- 3) work set and recommendations for completion are guidelines only and we are happy for parents to use this guidance as they best see fit.

We also appreciate, and understand from personal experience, that access to technology can be limited, especially with several members of the household needing access at the same time. The government has asked for the National Curriculum to be suspended. Therefore, we urge you to remember that these tasks are simply set to help keep children's minds active and provide some structure to the day and can be used as you feel appropriate. We will endeavour to close gaps in learning once the children are back in school. Do what you can and don't worry about what you can't!

It has been really pleasing to see so much fantastic learning taking place at home. We have seen a wide range of creative approaches to learning and we are delighted that so many of you have shared your child's work via Purple Maths and by emails. Can all work that is sent in by email come from parents' accounts please? We have received some work/emails via pupils' personal accounts, and we do not know if parents have either seen or given permission to send this work/email in. We are continuing to look at how we approach home learning and are always try to look at other methods of helping us to connect with your child in order to help them learn. We took the decision at the start of the shutdown to send work out in a staggered approach so that we don't overwhelm families at what is an incredibly stressful time; this is why we send out new learning on a weekly basis and we are taking a whole school themed approach so if you have more than one child in the school, they can study the same topic together. We know that for many of you this will be a challenge and a source of great stress and so if your child gets stuck on an area of learning try not to worry too much. When we get back to school we work relentlessly to cover these areas. There is guidance and support from the government: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

I saw this and thought it summed up the current situation:

Dear parents,

Don't stress about school work. In September, I will get your children back on track. I am a teacher and that is my super-power. What I can't fix is social-emotional trauma that prevents the brain from learning. So right now, I just need you to share your calmness, share your strength and share your laughter with your children. No children are ahead. No children are behind. Your children are exactly where they need to be.

With love from all the teachers on planet Earth.

To try to strengthen our communication with the children, all teachers are planning to phone you/your child over the next week to see how you are. Children do not have to speak to the teacher if they do not wish to, but we just want to check you are all ok. Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our school staff who have gone above and beyond over this period of shutdown and are working many hours to help develop new methods of learning for our children to use, as well as teaching the children of our critical workers. Please rest assured that everyone in our school is constantly striving to help support each and every family. Take care and stay safe.

It is difficult for us as adults to take in all of the information and change that Covid-19 has caused in our lives. It is even harder to help children and young people cope with all the uncertainties and disruption. Social distancing, self-isolation, school closures and food shortages – there is so much for children to process and make sense of.

Below is a link to accessible information resources to make this process a little easier for families. The section on supporting anxiety is particularly useful. Have a look!

<https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/sltcovid19>

We have received the following useful link from the Here2Help charity for the attention of parents / carers. Please see below.

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/Here2Help>

The types of additional support available to people through Here2Help is as follows and the aim is to prevent families/households getting to crisis points:

- Food and Supplies - Unable to obtain food and supplies (including specific food and supplies)
- Health and Medication - Help with collecting medicine and prescriptions
- Commitments - Including childcare, pets and transport
- Connectivity and Entertainment - Internet access; Ideas for entertaining children
- Mental Health and Wellbeing - Social isolation and loneliness; Keeping active

Food banks:

We have received the following useful regarding food banks.

There is now a pop up food bank operating in Sidemoor. Newstarts@newsong is open Mondays and Thursdays from 12-2pm and people can donate and also collect food if they need it. We are conscious that at the end of the month people's normal payday may not have been what it has been. There is no formal referral needed at this time, any individual or family who finds themselves in need can simply pop in. Catshill Baptist Church foodbank and Newstarts foodbank can both arrange deliveries and can be contacted via their websites or Bromsgrove Community

Support www.supportbromsgrove.com