

I hope that you have all had some rest and relaxation during the Easter period, although I am sure that for many of you it has been a stressful and anxious time.

I thought that instead of writing you a letter, I would write in the format of a newsletter, and I'll continue to send these regularly whilst the school is closed for most pupils. In a very small way it seems like a bit of normality!

There may be a further letter soon, as the DFE has published 25 guidance documents in the past five days, and I need to make sure that we have taken account of all their advice.

### IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE AUTUMN TERM

One recent big decision by me was not in fact to retire in August as planned. In the current circumstances, it is not a good time for the school or for me to stop work in the summer. I trust that you have already received a letter from Colin Thompson, Chair of Governors, to explain this to you.

This was a difficult decision for me, but I am delighted to be able to continue for a little longer, and to be involved in making sure that the return to school is as seamless as possible. I am also very grateful to Mr Hotchin for taking on a shared role with me in the autumn, and all the senior team for their support of this decision.



### LEARNING AT HOME

I hope that you received my last letter, in which I tried to give reassurance about any perceived pressure for your children to complete work at home. You are all in different situations - some of you will find it easy to support home learning, others have more challenges. You may also be home working, have several children trying to access one device, have dodgy internet (I sympathise with that one at the moment!) or children who are not keen to engage in learning at home, leading to tantrums and arguments. This is why we have not sent you detailed plans for each day. We have no desire to add anxiety to your family situation. So please encourage your child to read, share books with them, get them to write if you can, practice Maths, watch informative TV programmes or online content, be active. But also make sure they have time to chill out, create, research their own interests - use the materials we send to you as much as you are able to, but please do not worry about it. (If it suits you to tell your child they have to do everything, and this is not causing stress - go ahead!)

### MORE ABOUT LEARNING AT HOME

After our teachers spent lots of time researching online resources, the DFE issued a list at the end of last week! They are struggling to keep up with the situation, as we all are. I have gone through all their suggestions, and on the next page I have put the ones that I think you might find the most useful. I am NOT asking you to look at all of these, but just to keep them to hand and have a look at any that you think might be particularly useful for your child. I would recommend the sites where children can listen to stories - they are definitely worth a look.

We will no longer send out lists of online resources in future weeks, as we think you have lots to go on now.

There are two big new sources to support online learning:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Daily lessons start today (Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April) and are online every week day from 9.00. All ages and subjects are covered. BBC Bitesize materials are always good, engaging for children and I would recommend a look at these. There is bound to be something available of interest to every child.

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

This is a new website from the Oak National Academy. This is a virtual school, with teachers from a variety of academies and schools. There are online lessons for every year group and subject. Your child may like to watch these - quizzes and tasks are included. We didn't have access to this site until today, so have had little time to assess the quality of it. However, a huge amount of work has gone into it in a very short time, so it is definitely worth a look.

**A selection of online learning from the DFE suggested list (Don't try to look at all of these!!)**

**Lots of ways to listen to stories:**

<https://stories.audible.com/discovery>

All children's audiobooks are available for free while schools are closed.

<https://authorfy.com/>

Access to masterclasses on texts from a range of authors, including videos from the authors and activities linked to novels. Registration required (free).

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/>

A site with recommended booklists, categorised by age range and topic, including fiction and non-fiction. Family activities are included in the 'Home Time' section.

<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

A free audio story every day from David Walliams

<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/help-during-school-closure/>

Available from Monday 20 April.

Films of well-loved stories read by Nick Cannon, a trained actor, teacher and trainer.

<https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/>

Lots of poetry to listen to.

<https://kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk/>

Downloadable resource packs which cover a range of subjects, including reading and writing, an archive of spoken poetry recordings. Children can listen to poems read out loud.

**Maths:**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/help-your-child-with-maths>

EYFS and KSI Maths

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games>

EYFS and KSI Maths

<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>

<https://www.mathematicsmastery.org/free-resources>

<https://nrich.maths.org/>

**Other:**

<https://www.literacyshedplus.com/en-gb/browse/free-resources>

<https://2simple.com/purple-mash/>

Free during school closure – includes computing

<https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk/blog/learning-home-packs/>

<https://www.stem.org.uk/primary-science>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006mvsc>

Videos that get younger children up and dancing with CBeebies presenters.

<https://www.nhs.uk/10-minute-shake-up/shake-ups>

10-minute activities based on Disney films

<https://theday.co.uk/subscriptions/the-day-home>

A daily newsletter for parents and carers at home with children, helping to enrich learning with real-world knowledge and skills.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers>

Videos which help children move while they learn. They support curriculum subjects, including Maths and English.

<https://www.afpe.org.uk/physical-education/thisispe-supporting-parents-to-teach-pe-at-home/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Daily lessons start from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 9.00. All ages and subjects covered.

## A message about cooking from Mrs (Karen) Mitchell

We are now over three weeks into isolation and I don't know about you, but our house is beginning to revolve around food. We are starting to get a bit bored with our favourites and now have the time to prepare and think about what we may like to eat. With shopping limited to once or twice a week and no clubs or extra activities we are actually eating all together at the same time planning our meals and what we may like to eat and need to buy.

With this in mind I would like to direct you to the let's get cooking recipe website, just click on the link <https://letsgetcooking.org.uk/lets-get-cooking-at-home/>, and it will take you to a host of recipes for you to use and share with your children of all ages, even toddlers. They are varied and include vegetarian, gluten-free, leftovers and takeaway and low-calorie meals. There are also tips for a fussy eaters, budgeting and health and safety.

So why not take a virtual holiday or visit your favourite restaurant (for more recipes ideas, type "simple (your chosen country) recipes" in your search engine) and have some fun learning at the same time? There are even fakeaways! So, choose your destination, research their culture (what they eat, celebrate, music, dance) to create the "mood", plan/design a menu, what currency to they use? Write a shopping list, how much did it cost? How much per portion? How much have they found out already?

Now the food preparation – wash your hands, we can all do that! There will be weighing and measuring using different utensils, reading different scales maybe, chopping, slicing, grating (don't forget to look at website first if you are unsure), doing fractions, cutting in half or quarters and cooking and measuring time.

Serve and eat. How does it look? Take a picture. Explore textures, aromas and taste. Enjoy the meal, have a good chat, where shall we go next? Rest a while and watch them wash up. Maybe they can write a review, take a picture, post to a friend and say "I made this". Would you recommend this destination? Why? Could you make it even better next time?

Show us what you have made and maybe we can share some in the next newsletter!. Have fun and enjoy.

## BUILDING NEWS

The internal snagging for our building has now been put off until the summer holiday. However, Midas are continuing with the external works. This is moving slower than originally planned, as they need to ensure social distancing, with a reduced number of contractors on site at once. In addition, some materials have been hard for contractors to access. Mr Hotchin and I were involved in a Skype progress meeting today, and were very happy to hear about the plans going forward. Of course, all plans are liable to change, but at the current time Midas say that although there are delays, they are on track for the entire project to be finished by the end of the summer holiday. We were delighted to hear this, as it would be so wonderful to return in the autumn to everything finished.

The crossing point on the road and widening of the pedestrian path will definitely not be worked on until August. They cannot risk the road being closed and materials becoming unavailable half way through the job, leaving the road closed! I am sure we all understand why this job is still on the back burner.



Thanks to the children in school before Easter who made some fabulous rainbows to thank the NHS staff. Thanks too to Mrs Charters who has displayed them in our board at the parish boundary in Frampton End Road. See if you can spot it when you go for a walk!

This is a scary time for some people. If you or someone you know is suffering from domestic abuse, they are allowed to leave

their home to seek help. Police and partner agencies are still available. Find support at <https://gov.uk/domestic-abuse> or call 999 if you are in immediate danger. Call the [National Domestic Abuse Helpline](#) for free and confidential advice, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247.



Well done to all the children being so fabulous in school, and to all of your trying your best with your learning at home! Keep safe and I hope you keep well.