

# Ashley C of E Primary School

Newsletter Spring Term – No.11 – w/e 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Our value this half-term is: forgiveness  
*'At Ashley School we want to be forgiving'*



## End of term

The last newsletter (No.10, w/e 20<sup>th</sup> March) seems so long ago, and I thought I'd end the term more formally with a newsletter rather than an email.

With this newsletter are two attachments - one from Surrey County Council and the other from the new CEO of The Good Shepherd Trust, which I urge you to read.

We have all received emails and messages through other means telling us how organisations are adapting to the coronavirus situation. Strange queues at the few shops that remain open, 'meeting' friends, family and colleagues on a computer screen, deserted streets, are all aspects of life now. We have no clear indication of when things will be 'normal' again.

There will be some positive outcomes from all of this, I'm sure. Our use and understanding of IT will have changed the shape of learning to come. Perhaps we may even be a more cohesive society.

We must all recognise the fallout from this pandemic too. I am aware of both staff and pupils at Ashley who have now had a bereavement through COVID-19. Several of our parents have asked for help as they are struggling either emotionally or financially and I hope that we have been able to provide some support and put organisations in touch. Remember that we have a strong community in the church – please do not hesitate to get in

touch with St. Mary's – there's a form on their website.

Although we break up for the Easter holiday today, Ashley remains open as a community. Members of the senior leadership team are on a rota over the next two weeks to deal with safeguarding issues as they arise and any other situations that may occur. Please email [head@ashley.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:head@ashley.surrey.sch.uk) if you need to, and you were also given an emergency phone number in an email on 25<sup>th</sup> March should it be necessary.

I would be grateful if you could give our staff a bit of a break over the next two weeks and refrain from emailing them. See below regarding online learning and activities.

We have two members of staff leaving Ashley today – Mrs Ince and Mrs Lambart. It is difficult saying a remote goodbye to them and to express our thanks. Fortunately, we will see both of them when school is open again, so it's not 'goodbye' yet!

I wish you all a happy Easter and look forward to the time when we can welcome you through the school gates once more.

*Alex Clark*

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## Online learning and activities

We've only had two weeks of trying to get to grips with staff and children working at home. For almost all of you, this will not have been easy. Parents are not teachers (some are!) and you are not expected to replicate school at home. This is different. We have been trying to provide you with both online learning and with additional activities to help you at home. Some schools have provided no online learning and have just given parents links to websites and



some textbooks to work through. We have chosen *Seesaw* as our main platform, supported by *Purple Mash*, *Mathletics* and other useful materials.

In our online meetings with teachers we have become aware that some parents have been critical about what we are providing – comparing teachers in different year groups and what learning has been provided.

Our teachers have families too. They are struggling with dealing with their own children and elderly relatives. Their lives have been turned upside down too. Thank you, teachers, for all you have done over the past couple of weeks.

I expect consistency between classes in a year group, but I do not expect all year groups to be doing the same. Once your child has been guided by you to work on some or all of the activities provided, then that should be all that is expected. It's different! This is a difficult situation for most of us.

### FFP3 face masks

If you know of any contractors who may have a supply of FFP3 face masks, and who would be prepared to donate them to NHS frontline staff, Mrs Page, one of our key worker parents, would be very pleased to hear from you - [emmajanejohn@gmail.com](mailto:emmajanejohn@gmail.com)



### Y5 Bude school journey

The Bude trip for Y5 is very unlikely to take place in May. The Centre that we use has a slot in October, so we hope to be able to take the current Y5s to Bude later in the year if we can't go in May.

### Y6 Chamonix school journey

Although in June, the Department for Education has advised that international trips are cancelled for the rest of the academic year. All Y6 parents have been informed and refunds are being processed.

### Free school meals

The Government's new voucher system for shopping vouchers for those children eligible for free school meals (not the universal infant free meals) went live this week. Those eligible have been contacted and will receive their weekly voucher by email during term time.

Any families whose situation has recently changed and may now be eligible for free school meals, should check the criteria ([www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals](http://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals)) and submit a form (available in the letters and forms section on our website).

**If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling they're in (primary or secondary) on 31 March 2022.**

### Key worker support

School has remained open across the country for children of key workers and vulnerable pupils. The key message of 'stay at home' has applied and the majority of our key workers have been able to make arrangements for their children to stay at home with the other parent or a family member.

The few children that we have that have required care during the day were managed at Ashley for the first three days of closure. Head teachers in Walton worked together to provide a solution that meant fewer school staff had to be in contact with other adults and children and we teamed up with Grovelands Primary School, where our pupils went, supported by some Ashley staff.

During the school holiday we continue to offer a provision for childcare where essential, which is at Walton Oak. Parents who need that have now registered and our learning support assistants, who have provided amazing support during this challenging time, have been allocated. A particular 'thank you' to our LSAs for all their hard work over this period.

Key workers will receive an email towards the end of the last week of the holiday to ask about provision for next term.