



Ashley Road
Walton on Thames
Surrey KT12 1HX
Tel 01932 227695

An Academy in the Good Shepherd Trust
No 08366199

www.ashleyschool.org.uk

11 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Many of you have been in touch about your changing family situation or with issues you are facing with your children. Our highest school priority this year is 'Mental health & wellbeing and COVID-19 recovery'. Whilst we are providing a whole range of additional support for children in school, there are opportunities for you too in our area.

I am grateful to the Pastoral Team at Cobham Free School for collating much of the information below. Please do make use of what is available to you and, remember, you can always ask us for help.

Firstly, if your family situation has changed, your child may now be eligible for the **Pupil Premium**. This is a trigger for additional funding that comes into our school to enable us to provide more for your child. Even a short period where your child is eligible for free school meals (even if they don't have a free meal at school, or they are already having free meals as in infant) will trigger the pupil premium for the entire time they are at primary school (worth over £9,000 per pupil over their time at Ashley). Ashley may be entitled to claim pupil premium funding if you receive one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit Only (with income up to £16,190) with no element of Working Tax Credit
- National Asylum Seekers Support
- Guarantee Element of the State Pension Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance (income related)
- Universal Credit (income dependant)

If this may apply to you, please contact our school office and you will be provided with a form. The process checks your eligibility. If you are unsure, it's better to apply anyway.

If you are having difficulties with accessing food, are worried about the mental health of your child or need to reach out due to family crisis - please use the following information to assist you.



Food banks and Community Fridges

Visit the Surrey Information Point website for details on foodbanks and Community Fridges available in Surrey. Or perhaps you can donate your time to help out?

Website: www.surreyinformationpoint.org.uk

Walton & Hersham Food Bank

This operates on a referral system and we are able to supply vouchers. This service is for people who find themselves at a time of crisis. Due to the nature of this, please come directly to me (head teacher) if you need support from the food bank at any point.

Website: waltonhersham.foodbank.org.uk

OASIS (for families in Elmbridge)

Oasis are issuing food bank vouchers every Tuesday morning from 10am – 12pm. They also distribute fresh fruit, vegetables and other fresh items on Tuesdays.

Website: oasischildcare.co.uk

Phone number: 01932 887947

Email: info@oasischildcare.co.uk

Address: Oasis Children's Charity, Cedar Centre & Library, Cedar Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2AE

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support

The government announced in the Budget on 11 March that it would provide local authorities in England with new grant funding to support Council Tax payments for the economically vulnerable people and households in their local area. The government announced an increase in the local housing allowance from 1 April. If you are in receipt of housing benefits and/or council tax support (not Universal Credit) and your income has been disrupted due to coronavirus impact, please contact your local council.

Website: www.elmbridge.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/benefits-and-support

Benefits

If you require information regarding claiming benefits during this time visit the Department of Work and Pensions website: www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/coronavirus

Job centres

The majority will remain open and will continue to support people who are not able to use phones and online, including homeless people.

Website: www.gov.uk

Universal Credit

You can call the Universal Credit helpline to get help making your claim online or if you need help applying for an advance payment.

Telephone 0800328 5644

Textphone 0800 328 1344

Website: www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk

Citizens Advice Service

Help with enquiries about benefits and financial support. Their service is now completely online.

Website: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Surrey Crisis Fund

The Surrey Crisis Fund is a discretionary fund run by Surrey County Council providing financial help to Surrey residents who have nowhere else to turn in an emergency or after a disaster.

Website: www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/surrey-crisis-fund

Homeowners and struggling to pay your mortgage

Visit the Money Advice Service

Website: www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk

You might be able to get help towards interest payments on your mortgage or loans you've taken out for certain repairs and improvements to your home

Website: www.gov.uk/support-for-mortgage-interest

For residents who rent their property

If you rent your property, and are struggling to pay, visit the Government website to find out about claiming Universal Credit and visit the Department of Work and Pensions to find out more about benefits which may be available to you.

Website: www.gov.uk/universal-credit

Website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions

Children and Family Health Surrey

NHS community nursing helping with mental health, physical and emotional wellbeing and therapy services for children and young people.

Email: csh.elmbridgeschoolnurseteam@nhs.net

Website: www.childrenshealthsurrey.nhs.uk

Surrey County Council Community Helpline

The helpline will direct residents who need support, if friends and family are unable to help with such things as picking up shopping, prescription collections or having someone who can be a telephone friend, and other services that can help. The helpline will also provide advice on where to register your offer of help to support your community.

Phone number: 0300 200 1008 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

Register for coronavirus support as an extremely vulnerable person

If you have a health condition that makes you especially vulnerable to coronavirus, the government is advising you to stay at home and take special steps to protect yourself. You can register for support if you or someone you care for is extremely vulnerable to coronavirus.

Website: www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable

Mental Health Support Service

If your child is in crisis, you can call CAMHS during office hours (9am-5pm) on 03002225850

Out of office hours you can call the Emergency Duty Team - Extended Hope on 01483 517898

In mental health or medical emergencies or serious safety concerns, please call 999 or take the young person to A&E.

The Child and Young People's Havens drop in bases operated across 3 bases to provide a safe place to talk about worries and feelings. Bases in Guildford, Staines and Epsom opening days and times available on www.cyphaven.net

Kooth.com free, safe and anonymous online support for young people via counsellors, self-help and community support

Mental Health Crisis helpline (Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust): 0300 456 8342. SMS text line for deaf and hard of hearing: 07717 989 8342. SMS text relay: 18001 0300 456 8342.

NHS Tel: 111 - for emergencies that are less urgent than 999.

Jigsaw South East who offer support to bereaved children and young people, and those facing the death of a loved one, across Surrey and West Sussex: www.jigsawsoutheast.org.uk

Samaritans provides 24 hour emotional support - Tel: 08457 909 090.

ChildLine A free and confidential support service for children. Tel: 0800 1111.
www.childline.org.uk

HOPELineUK / Papyrus provide you with a safe space to talk through anything happening in your life that could be impacting on your or anyone else's ability to stay safe. Helpline: 0800 068 41 41 Monday-Friday 10am-5pm and 7pm-10pm. Saturdays 2pm-5pm. Website: www.papyrus-uk.org

Your faithfully

A Clark

Mr A Clark
Head Teacher