



Five Ways Primary School

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Monday 23rd March 2020

Dear Parents,

Home Learning for Pupils during School Closure

Thank you for your understanding over the last few days where we had to close the school at short notice on Friday last week. We know that this would have been inconvenient for many families and we would like to say how grateful we are for your support in making alternative arrangements during this difficult time.

In light of long-term school closure as instructed by the Government, our priority now is that we maintain the well-being of children and staff at this time and appreciate your co-operation.

We are aware there are some 'tricky' matters that your children may ask about and/or be concerned about at this time. There is some useful advice on this NHS site about talking to your child: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/talking-to-children-about-feelings/>

We will continue to communicate with you via email, text and through our website so please look out for updates and messages through these systems.

We understand the pressure on families at this time however, we recommend that children for which school is closed, are supervised and not out in the community.

It might be useful, in order to make this time manageable, to devise a daily timetable for your household for example:

9.00am – 10.00am	Home learning activity suggested by school.
10.00am – 11.00am	Family activity: board games, household chores etc.
11.00am – 12.00pm	Home learning activity suggested by school.
12.00pm – 1.00pm	Lunchtime (<i>Possibly involve your children in preparing the food.</i>)
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Reading time.
2.00pm – 3.00pm	Outdoor time: play in the garden, possibly a walk if permitted.
3.00pm – 4.00pm	Online time: educational game, e.g. Times Tables Rock Stars

We would strongly recommend against too much online activity and online gaming.

We are pleased to be offering you some ideas to help you continue your child's learning at home. You will be able to locate these resources on our school website: <http://www.fiveways-primary-school.org.uk> please see the 'Home Learning' tab that has been added, then select



the appropriate year group activities. Links to educational websites will also be listed on these pages in the forthcoming days.

In addition, you should already be aware that pupils in KS1 and KS2 have access to Bug Club, MyMaths and Times Tables Rock Stars and that additional tasks / work has been allocated on the programs. These programs are available now and will be updated on a regular basis by staff.

As we are sure you will appreciate, many of our staff may still experience illness in the forthcoming weeks and months: for that reason we have endeavoured to ensure that any work given to your child or placed on the website, will be easily managed at home. As the weeks pass, additional learning activities will be added to the website.

We also appreciate that keeping children engaged in their learning whilst at home is not going to be easy, so please feel free to set mini-projects that you know will be of interest to your child – suggestions for practical activities are also on the website.

As mentioned previously, many of our staff may still experience illness in the forthcoming weeks and months, therefore all work that is completed at home should remain at home as staff will not have the capacity to mark it. Parents are asked to give positive feedback to children and reward them for their hard work at home.

I would like to stress that no visitors will be allowed onto the school site, and this includes family members of those pupils who are learning from home. These measures have been put in place to protect our school community and halt the spread of the virus. However, please feel free to contact us via phone or email on office@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk if you have an urgent request and it is **absolutely necessary**, as monitoring and responding to these requires considerable staffing resources. Almost all of our office team are in self-isolation or have underlying medical needs so are not in school for at least the next 12 weeks.

We are still in the process of making arrangements for pupils who are entitled to **free school meals**. More details of this to follow.

This will be the last letter from me for a few days. With the most recent announcement from the Prime Minister where all social venues such as gyms, clubs, pubs and restaurants have been asked to close, I urge you all to please follow the guidance and stay safe at home where possible.

I hope you have found the daily communication helpful and once again, I would like to say a huge thank you to the Five Ways School community and the Heath Hayes community.

With all good wishes,

Miss J Jones
Assistant Headteacher

