



# Five Ways Primary School

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Dear Parents,

We are now at the end of week 2 of the national lockdown and I wanted to send you some information about how we are working.

## Easter Break

The school Easter break is supposed to start today however, we are continuing to staff the school for children who are in vulnerable groups or whose parents are key workers. As you know, this is for those who have no alternative childcare and I would like to thank you for understanding this, which has meant that the numbers have been small and so enable us to practise social distancing and reduce risks for all, including our staff. The provision is set to continue through the Easter break with the exception of Good Friday and Easter Monday.

However, the school office will be **CLOSED** throughout the Easter break. If there is an emergency and there is an URGENT reason why any parent should need to contact school, we have purchased an emergency phone that will be monitored by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The number is as follows: **07726 615591. Please only contact us via this number if an emergency.**

## Primary Assessments

Primary assessments will not go ahead this summer. This includes:

- Reception Pupils – Throughout the month of June 2020
- Year 1 Phonics Screening check week - w/c Monday 8th June 2020
- Year 2 KS1 Test period during the month of May 2020
- Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check – w/c 8th June 2020 for a 3 week period
- Year 6 KS2 SATs week – w/c Monday 11th May 2020

## Learning for Pupils

As it is becoming clear we will not be reopening to pupils for a long time, it is important that they are able to continue with their learning whilst at home. I know that this can be difficult for so many reasons including motivation and access to resources, but please do your best to encourage your child to get into a routine of carrying out some activities that have been made available via our school website during the closure.



I would like to inform you however, that no new activities will be uploaded during the Easter break. There is also no expectation that pupils will engage in any activities during this 2 week holiday period.

For the summer term, I would like to make you aware that we are in the process of investigating 'google classroom'. As I am sure you can appreciate, we need to ensure we have the infrastructure to roll this out to all staff and parents before we implement such a program, and to see if is a viable option. I also need to consider how staff will be trained to use it etc. before it goes live, and I understand from Staffordshire County Council that this can take several weeks to set up. I will keep you updated following the Easter break.

In addition, I have been informed that The DfE is working with the BBC, and other partners, to provide advice and support directly to parents, including online resources parents can access for your children at home. Again, I will keep you updated when I am provided with more information.

I am also in the process of setting up a dedicated email address whereby parents can send in photographs of your children taking part in learning activities at home. We will be able to display these on our school website and share some good practice. We really do miss seeing our pupils every day and this might be another way that we can engage with pupils who are at home. Once this email address is organised, I will share further information about how this will be managed.

### **Online Safety**

Please also do everything you can to keep your child safe online at this time when they are likely to be using the internet and social media even more than normal. They will not have the filtering system that we have in school to protect them from accessing harmful websites.

There is lots of advice available for parents including the following:

- Childline - for support - <https://www.childline.org.uk/>
- UK Safer Internet Centre - to report and remove harmful online content - <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>
- CEOP - for advice on making a report about online abuse - <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

### **Caroline Bower's Art Award**

Due to the exceptional circumstances, we find ourselves in our annual Arts Award celebration in recognition of Mrs Caroline Bowers will have to be adapted to reflect long-term school closure. Mrs Jackson, who is one of our art specialist teachers at Five Ways, is in communication with Mr Bowers and will be pleased to inform you of how we will endeavour to continue to recognise pupils' artistic talents even when learning at home. More information will follow after the Easter break.

I do hope that you and your families are staying safe and well at this incredibly difficult time. I look forward (and I am sure you do too) to the time when we can get back to some sort of normality and welcome your children back into school. In the meantime, stay safe and I look forward to writing to you again following the Easter break with further updates.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rachel Mander  
Headteacher

