



Five Ways Primary School

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Dear Parents,

COVID-19 Update: Home Learning / Prime Minister's Announcement

We hope that you and your families are safe and well. We are missing you all very much and wanted to keep you updated on our current position.

Home Learning

As you will be aware, we have been directing you to many activities via our school website, when setting online home learning for your child during lockdown. Initially, teachers had been setting general year group tasks however, it would appear that our website is now so rich with resources to access, that many parents are finding it a little overwhelming and are anxious about directing children to the correct tasks.

As a result of feedback received from parents and discussions with our Governors, we have now obtained a greater insight into your needs as parents whilst supporting your child/ren with home learning. As a response to this, I am pleased to make you aware that we have now decided upon a new way of communicating with you regarding your child's home learning.

From today, each classteacher will publish a weekly letter, to set work for the week ahead and each week following. You will notice from the letters published today that classteachers have listed activities under 5 sections: spelling, reading, writing, mathematics and a weekly project. Rather than being overly prescriptive, by setting specific work for each day of the week, we have opted for a bullet pointed list of no more than 5 items in each section. This will enable your child to pick 1 thing, from each section, daily.

Additional feedback from parents that we have spoken with has been that at times, some parents find the 'trawling' through resources too time consuming. For this reason, staff have been asked to place the appropriate link to each resource, in the appropriate section of their actual letter. This will make finding related resources easier for you and for your child to locate and access.

You may also notice our decision to place a differentiated home learning letter on the website from each classteacher, to reflect the streamed classes in KS2. We feel that this will enable a regular 'personal' form of contact with the children, from their own classteacher rather than generic tasks being set for each year group. Please be aware that activities for Early Years children (Nursery and Reception), as expected, will look slightly different to other year groups, due to the subject areas being covered and therefore, will follow a slightly different format.



As mentioned previously, classteachers enjoy receiving replies to their letters and like to celebrate the home learning tasks being completed at home. If your child would like their work to be showcased in the 'Gallery' section of our website, or if your child would like to reply to their teacher, please contact your child's classteacher via the email addresses listed below:

Nursery children: nurseryphotographs@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk

Reception children: receptionphotographs@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk

Year 1 children: yr1photographs@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk

Year 2 children: yr2photographs@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk

Year 3 children: yr3photographs@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk

Year 4 children: yr4photographs@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk

Year 5 children: yr5photographs@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk

Year 6 children: yr6photographs@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk

If you have any difficulty accessing the internet please get in touch via the main school office, and we will endeavour to do our best to help. Please also remember that we know that learning at home is different from being at school and there is no expectation for you to replicate it. We know that juggling working from home or managing looking after your family is a huge challenge at the moment and appreciate all of the things that you are doing to support your child/ren.

Schools Re-Opening

Following the Prime Minister's announcement last night, we would like to make it clear that Five Ways School will only be open to children of key workers and vulnerable children until further notice.

However, you will be aware that the Prime Minister announced that primary schools in England might start to reopen from 1st June at the earliest with Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils being prioritised initially in a phased return.

I want to reassure you that any decision to re-open Five Ways would be taken with the upmost consideration of the safety for our children, staff and families. The Senior Leadership Team along with the Governing Body have already met and will continue to meet regularly throughout the school closure, to discuss ways to keep our children, staff and families safe when schools are required to re-open. It is important to say all schools across the country will be operating in a very different way. For the safety of everyone, schools will need to operate on a very different model. Until we have any further information from The Government, we cannot give you any more details. However, we can share with you just a few of our initial thought processes:

- We would need to ensure social distancing where possible. This could include children being in school on a rota basis to enable less children and adults being in classrooms, corridors, playground, dining room, etc.



- We would need to ensure that children and staff have increased facilities and opportunities for regular handwashing.
- Our daily systems would need adaptation, e.g. varying break times, parents remaining outside of the school building, etc.
- Regular deep cleans would need to take place in rooms/spaces occupied by children and staff.

Once again, until we have any firm information and guidance from The Government, we can only set provisional ideas, and as you can imagine, a great deal of planning will need to take place before we can re-open. We do hope this reassures you that we are already considering the full implications of re-opening with the safety of our children, staff and families at the heart of all decisions.

We do understand that whilst some children and families are really missing school, the routine, their friends and their teachers, it is understandable that there will be some uncertainty and anxiety. I want to reassure you that when we do start to re-open, it will be a phased approach so that we can keep the whole of our school community safe, and as soon as I have more information I will update you.

These are unprecedented times, and we will get through this together in the spirit of support, respect and care for our children.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rachel Mander
Headteacher

