



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you so much for the lovely emails and photos that you have been sending in of the learning that children have been doing at home with you. We have been trying to keep the twitter feed up to date with some of the activities from school.

We are missing all the children and school is very quiet with just a few children in. The teachers have been enjoying their phone calls with the children and we have been really impressed with how everyone is managing at this really difficult time.

Home Learning

We really are not expecting you to become teachers. The staff are not setting lots of new learning but are focusing on consolidating what children have been learning, so that they should be able to work fairly independently. The idea is that we want children to keep hold of and remember the learning they have done and to give them some structure and purpose to their day.

Reading

Encourage your children to read, as this will really help them once school starts again. A good free resource is available at www.oxfordowl.co.uk where they have set up a free library of online books for 3 – 11 year olds. You need to register with them, but this is a fairly simple process.

Free School Meal Vouchers

Vouchers are available for anyone who qualifies for means-tested free school meals. Everyone who qualifies should have had a voucher code emailed to them by now. If you have not, then please call and check that we have your most up to date email address. You will be given a code which you put into the free school meal website and then choose a supermarket where you use the code to purchase an E Card. This can take 24hours to be sent.

Many families have had a change of circumstances with lots of adults losing jobs and this has had a huge financial impact on families. If you think you may now be eligible for free school meals you can apply online at the Devon Citizens portal. It is on the Devon County Council website at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/supportforschools/services-and-contracts/free-school-meals>

To qualify you need to be claiming one of the following:

Universal credit, Income support, Income-based job seekers allowance, child tax credit – providing you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit

If you have any questions, call us and we will do our best to help.

Booking Places in School

If you have already told us about being a key worker, there will be a new booking form soon on the website for bookings for places for after the 24th April. If you have not, then please can you call school and let us know that you are a key worker **and have no one at home to look after children**. Once you have done this you will be able to go on and book places that you need.

Online Safety

At the moment, children are accessing online learning so much more. Please be aware of the sites they are accessing and keep safety in your mind at all times. The NSPCC has some great advice for families about this and you can find this <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

Explaining the Current Pandemic to Children

A lot of parents have asked about how to explain what is going on to the children without frightening them unnecessarily. Try looking at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-52149055> for younger children.

The following site is useful for adults and can be accessed in 45 different languages
<https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/coronavirus-information/>

Finally, I would like to say well done to all our families. You are facing challenges that you never thought you would have to face and are doing it well. Try to remember that this will not last forever and that we will all be back together soon. Take care and stay well.

Mrs Marlow