



Star Primary School
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*Nurturing &
growing together*

17th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Weekly Update:

I know that as we enter another three weeks of lockdown, there is lots of anxiety and uncertainty about the future. Listening to the government's daily updates and following the news of how this is playing out around the world, really is very emotional. I know that more of our community have now been directly affected by Coronavirus and my deepest sympathy goes out to all the families that have been affected.

What I am holding onto is that there does seem to be light at the end of the tunnel and we hear that the number of new cases seem to be slowing down. It is really important that we don't give up now. That we continue to keep ourselves and our families as safe as possible by following the government's advice to **STAY AT HOME**.

On Monday will be the official start of the summer term. The staff will once again be online to support all learning through the google drive from 9am – 3pm. During this time, the admin helpdesk will again be open during these times, to answer questions or to help you to get assistance with any technical issues. In addition, from now on, when we publish the weekly timetable every Friday, you will also be able to access the worksheets on the website. We are doing this in case some children are unable to access the google drive. Once again, I urge you to try and establish some formal routine for your child during this time. If at all possible, keep the home learning between the hours of 9am and 3pm. After that let your child have time to do other things and switch off from Home Learning Mode. It is really important not to keep going all day and also to have regular breaks during the day. I know how difficult it is to have to be working from home and supervising home learning at the same time, so be flexible and realistic about your expectations. Keeping your family safe is the most important thing you can do right now, and this means limiting social contact with all others.

As you know, the school remains open for a few pupils whose parents are keyworkers. These parents have contacted us and let us know each week which days are needed. We are also open to vulnerable children in cases where the child/children might be safer at school than at home. I am asking everyone else to please adhere to the fact that the school remains closed for all other pupils. We cannot accommodate children just because parents need to work from home or are fed up of having to manage their children at home. This would result in large amounts of contact with others, increasing staff numbers and a much greater danger of spreading the virus within the community.

Finally I want to address the issue of the government's voucher scheme. This has proved very tricky to set up and the government infrastructure did not have the capacity for all schools to log on and apply for these vouchers. Ms Barracks is working very hard to resolve this. We are hoping that all families who are entitled to Free School Meals, will have the vouchers by next week. They will arrive as an e-voucher via parentmail. This will replace the weekly lunch packs that the school has been providing. There will be no lunch packs from next week as we move to the voucher scheme.

Thank you for your continued support during these really difficult times. We really do miss having the children in school and it is very strange to be in school with hardly any children. They really are the life and soul of Star Primary.

My very best wishes.
Ms Von

