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School Closure Weekly Update

Friday 3rd July 2020

Dear Parents,

Yesterday the Government issued its guidance on the full reopening of schools to all pupils in September.

The guidance presents a much more normal version of school than that which we have had over the last 3 months. It's by no means a return to complete normality but it will see us operating in many ways that are more familiar to the children. The children will be able to return to their classes and where they will be able to mix more freely. The thought of reuniting our school and seeing everyone back together is very exciting.

There are of course a lot of rules that schools will need continue to abide by to ensure safety with many logistics to think through in order to reduce contact between children in different year groups to minimise the spread of the virus. It looks as though we will need to continue to implement staggered start and finish times and will need to look at strategies for lunchtimes and playtimes to keep year groups separate. Adaptations will need to be made to the curriculum but we will see a return to teachers and teaching assistants working more closely with children and providing feedback and support in more familiar ways.

Schools were only made aware of the new guidance at the time it was made available to the general public so we need a little time to digest what we are being asked to do. Once we are clear on the expectations for September we can confirm plans and arrangements and will let parents know as much we can before we break up for the holiday.

Message for the Children...

Hi everyone,

It has been so lovely to see some of you come into school for the after school sessions with your friends and teachers. So far we have seen Year 1 and Year 5. Everyone has certainly grown a lot taller since lockdown began! The teachers were very excited about seeing you all as they have missed very much.

I'm going to keep my fingers crossed that the sun will shine and the rest of the sessions will be able to go ahead as planned. I'm really sorry we had to cancel yesterday's sessions due to the rain but there is of course a second chance in the next few weeks.

We're also very pleased that we will be able to see all our Year children back in school for 2 full days before the end of term so that we can say goodbye. The teachers are planning lots of lovely things for you.

Have a great week everyone.

Smiles to you all

Miss Talbot

The guidance for the full opening of schools can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Guidance for parents about full reopening in September can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

End of Term

Please be reminded that term will end for children in Year R on Tuesday 21st July in order for us to accommodate Year 6 in school for the last 2 days of the academic year. School will continue to remain open to Key Workers on Wednesday 22nd July and Thursday 23rd July but we would ask that in order for us to have more staffing and room options available for accommodating Year 6, if you are able to keep your child at home, please do so. Further details will be sent out to key workers on Monday.

Friday 24th July is an INSET day and school will be closed to all pupils.

School will not be open to key worker children in the summer holidays. KCC are looking into the possibility of setting in up holiday clubs and I will let everyone know as soon as I hear anything more definite about this. I know that many of you will be needing to make arrangements in the coming weeks.

Next Class Teachers

Earlier today, I sent out details of which teacher the children will be having next year. For children in Years 1 to 5, teachers will come along to the second after school sessions to meet their next class. We are currently looking at what opportunity we can put in place to offer a chance for Year R children to get to know their next teacher.

We are in the process of recruiting for Teaching Assistants. As part of the interview process, candidates will be invited into school to read a story to a small group of children. All social distancing measures will be adhered to in this activity.

We will be letting our new September starters know who their class teacher is next week.

End of Year Reports

Children in school, will take their end of year reports home on Monday 13th July. Reports will be posted out to those not in school on Friday 10th July. As previously explained this will be a brief end of year summary.

Home Learning Tasks

For the final 3 weeks of term we have set the children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 an independent project to complete instead of the usual Unexpected Adventure Trail – this will be completed by children both in and out of school. Years 2 and 3 will be exploring Ancient Egypt, whilst years 4 and 5 will be investigating the Terrible Tudors. For each topic the teachers have given the children some suggestions of the things that they could look at as part of their learning, but it is designed to be a more independent project; it is completely up to your child what aspects of the topic they look at and how they choose to present their work. We can't wait to see what they come up with! Children can bring their project work back to school with them in September. Maths has also been set for these year groups, with support sheets provided on the school closure year group web pages as normal.

Unexpected Adventure Trails will continue to be set for years R, 1 and 6.

All home learning tasks are available on the school website.

<https://godinton.kent.sch.uk/home-learning-school-closure-2020/home-learning-school-closure-key-information/>

Further Information for Children Attending School

Please can I ask that you try to arrive at school at the time of your allocated pick up time. We have had a number of parents who are arriving early and in waiting for their children along Loudon Way, and in doing so are blocking our Road Crossing Patrol. Please can you help Mrs Humphrey by waiting in your car or away from the pavement so that she can see everyone across the road safely. Thank you.

Face to Face Sessions

Everyone has been sent details of the dates and times of their child's face to face sessions and whether they have been allocated to group A or group B. Please remember that all children have been invited to 2 sessions so if one session is cancelled due to bad weather, there is always another opportunity. We are really enjoying welcoming the children back on site and hope that good weather will enable us to see as many as possible over the coming weeks.

Speechlink Parent Portal

<https://speechandlanguage.info/parents>

Please find above the link to the Speechlink portal. We continue to strongly recommend that before you begin any activities with your child, you read through the information held in the portal. This includes information about speech production and language needs that are concisely and accessibly described in the 'Information' and 'Development' tabs of the portal. These pages are a quick read but very informative. Please remember to click on any arrows within the page for more information. Please see below for this week's recommendation.

Now try this...

This week, move into the Dark Blue section of the activities on the portal. This offers support to children up to 9 years of age. Help to develop your child's understanding of how to describe similarities and differences by playing the 'Donkey' game. Alternatively, you could develop their skills with following instructions and sequences by playing the 'Strictly Robots' game.

Weekly Challenge...

Why not join in with this week's 'Weekly Challenge'. This is something that the children could work on independently or you could work on as a family. This week's challenge is all about: **Around the World**

With restrictions in place for travel to some parts of the world, why not go on a virtual grand tour of the globe and explore different countries.

Perhaps you could:

- Investigate landmarks in different countries and make a model or fact file about them.
- Look at the currency used in different countries. Do any countries have non-circular coins?
- Look at an atlas and work out, where in the world you would find different countries. How do their populations vary? What is the capital city of each country?
- Create a collage of pictures about a particular country.
- Investigate the National dress of different countries and draw some pictures.

Wellbeing News...From Mrs Stein and Mrs McGibney

Whatever size family you are in, you get to create a family circle, where you try your best to stay connected and look out for each other. So a really good way to support each other is with praise and affirmation. Your challenge is to be completed at your next meal time. Choose one or maybe two members of your family and tell them 3 things you like about them.

1. You're amazing at.....
2. I didn't realise you were so good at..... (Surprise!!)
3. When you do..... it makes me feel.....

Whoever they are, they'll be embarrassed but will love it! Let others have a go too so everyone has a turn.

Family Fun...

Why not get a sensible family member or teenager to be the camera person, place the phone on SLO -MO, then create a funny moment or prank, where someone walks into the room and drops lots of bits or accidentally falls onto a cushion or bean bag (strategically placed.) Practise makes perfect, so make sure the prank is safe and works well before filming then just go for it! 1-2 minutes are long enough.....You'll be laughing for weeks, especially watching it over & over in slow motion. **STAY SAFE!**

(RISK ASSESS IT- IF NOT SUITABLE, JUST MAKE A FUN FAMILY SINGING VIDEO FOR KEEPSAKE.)

Children's Challenge...

Take some time to make a special card or postcard for a loved one. This might be for a grandparent, auntie, uncle or good friend. Think about the things that they might like on the card that might relate to their interests, loves and likes. Make an envelope to fit your card by taking a piece of paper that is twice the size of the card and fold each corner into the middle and seal it with sellotape. Next, ask your grown-ups if you can put a stamp on it, find out the address of the person you are sending your card to and with your grown-ups take a walk to the post box. I bet you get some lovely messages when they arrive at your special person's house, everyone loves some surprise mail through the post!

Something to Explore...

<https://minds.actionforchildren.org.uk/read>

The Action for Children website has support and advice for how you can support your children's wellbeing during this period, including managing anxiety and fear.

Latest Government Guidance

The latest Government guidance on Coronavirus can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Please remember to notify the school in the event that your child demonstrates symptoms of coronavirus or if they are self-isolating as someone in their household has symptoms and is undergoing testing.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind Regards

Jill Talbot

Headteacher