



Alfred Street Junior School

Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 9YS
Web site: www.alfredstreetjunior.org
Email: head@alfredstreet.northants-ecl.gov.uk

Telephone: 01933 353762
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Headteacher: Mrs K O'Connor
School Business Manager: Mrs Debbie Heffernan

22nd April 2020

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

I hope you all managed to have some nice family time over the Easter break and I would like to welcome you to our very first remote summer term! As you will be aware, the Government have recently announced that we will continue to be in lockdown for at least the next three weeks and school will only be open to those essential keyworkers/vulnerable families who do not have any other safe provision in place.

We have all had to adapt to new ways of living, so I wanted to take the opportunity to say what an amazing job you are doing to support your child's wellbeing and learning during this time. It's definitely been a strange and challenging time, so it's ok if you and your child feel wobbly and worried at this time. We are here for you every step of the way, as we all figure out how to get through this challenging time. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns about your child or if you need any other support from the school. You can contact the school office between the hours of 11-2pm, you can contact myself by emailing me at head@alfredstreet.northants-ecl.gov.uk or you can contact Mrs Watts via email at w.watts@alfredstreet.northants.sch.uk or via the school mobile 07914989065.

We miss the children very much, but we must follow the Government guidance to keep everyone in our community safe. So we would appreciate if you could encourage your children to complete some of their learning packs. We also ask that if they are able to get online, that they access some of the learning websites we have shared, although we fully appreciate this might be challenging for some households. We would also like to inform you that this week, the Government have launched a new initiative to provide online learning. Some of the leading state schools have collaborated to open The Oak National Academy. This is a totally new initiative, led by 40 teachers who have assembled video lessons and resources. 180 video lessons will be provided each week, across a broad range of subjects, for every year group from Reception through to Year 10. To access these resources please visit: <https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom>. For each year group, the children will be able to access an English online lesson, a maths lesson and a foundation stage lesson daily.

In addition, this week BBC Bitesize have released a programme of online learning activities bringing 3 new lessons every week day with videos, activities and more. These can be accessed via:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

The Education Secretary Gavin Williamson also shared this message for the children:

I wanted to say to you how sorry I am that you have had your education disrupted in this way. I know how hard it must be and I would like to thank you for making the adjustments you have had to make.

Create - Learn - Progress
There is no limit!



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I know you will be missing your friends, your teachers and your lessons. I want you to know that you are an important part of this fight too and I cannot thank you enough for all that you are doing.

The Government have also released new guidance for Parents and Carers that can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

We also want the children to have some fun during this challenging time and fully recognise that they will be learning many different life skills whilst they are at home with you. Each week we will also be posting a weekly fun challenge on our Facebook page/Alfred Street Junior and would love if you could share with us your contributions either by commenting on Facebook or sending your contributions to me on my email which is head@alfredstreet.northants-ecl.gov.uk. We will also post on Facebook/Alfred Street Junior Website any other activities that we think will keep the children entertained during this period and again we would love to see what your children are up to and hope to showcase their efforts in due course.

I would also imagine that there is some speculation currently about FSM vouchers, as during the holiday's the Government felt that provision for FSM children should continue. You may have read in the news that they introduced a facility to be able to provide FSM vouchers that could be spent in supermarkets. Unfortunately, we have been unable to offer this facility to you as the system is only to be used where no existing catering is in place. As we have a service level agreement with our outside catering company Dolce, which we are tied into, we do not have the funding to provide vouchers and will be continuing to supply grab bags (packed lunches) or a weekly food box. If you are entitled to these, please request one via the Parent App as there is funding in place for you to do so.

I would also like to take the opportunity to reassure our Year 6 children that if the Government extends the lockdown, and they are not able to return to school before September, we will ensure that they still have a special send off at the start of September. If this is the case, we plan to invite Year 6 back one evening for a party and leavers ceremony. We will also arrange a leaver's gift for them and these will be supplied at the ceremony. We will also arrange for them to be able to purchase a special leavers t-shirt with their peers names on and information about this will follow in due course.

For those of you who have siblings joining Year 3 in September, we are also working on a different type of transition should it be needed, so that we can reassure the children as much as possible before we start back.

Finally we cannot say yet when we will be able to open the school fully, but rest assured that we will continue to do our utmost to keep your child learning in whatever way they can and our school community connected.

Keep Safe everyone!

Mrs K O'Connor, Head Teacher

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