



Raysfield Infant School

Raysfield Junior School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Claire Hill
Associate Headteacher: Miss Sarah Sheppard
Associate Headteacher: Miss Sarah Thomas

Thursday 2nd April 2020

COVID-19 (coronavirus) update 6

Dear Parents and Carers,



Our normal school based Easter themed learning has been replaced with something rather different this year! However, do not despair if decorating eggs, making bonnets, dressing up as an Easter bunny, hunting in the garden for chocolate treats and then relaxing by eating more chocolate is your thing, we can still make that happen and celebrate Easter together 'virtually'!

What to expect from Class Dojo over the Easter break?

Thank you for your engagement with Class Dojo. We have really enjoyed looking at some of the different things you have been doing at home; there has been lots of creative learning happening!

During the Easter holidays teachers will not be posting on their class dojo pages or responding to messages and comments. However, as our school continues to be open for key workers over the Easter holidays, we will be sharing the activities and challenges we are doing at school on the whole school page. We will also be setting up some Easter related 'competitions'!

If you have been accessing our free school meals, either via delivery or through collection, this service will continue during the next two weeks, with the exception of Good Friday and Bank Holiday Monday (**school will be open on these days, but the kitchen is closed**). Any family finding themselves in financial difficulty and needing to access meals for their children, please contact the school via office@raysfieldfederation.org.uk We are researching the evoucher system, which the DfE has set up for every school. There is clear guidance on who is eligible and in the guidance, schools are being encouraged to continue to provide meals and food parcels, which we are happy to continue doing.

Home learning in Term 5



After the Easter holidays, we will be switching to our more detailed approach to home learning. This will include tasks in the core subjects of maths, writing, reading and spelling. There will be a different theme to each week with project ideas and activities for you to try at home.

Weekly Learning will be on the Class Dojo page by 9am every Monday

How can we support our children to understand what is going on?

Our country is facing a difficult time, and as adults, it is challenging to understand even from our experienced perspective. Our children will have many questions as the lockdown continues and situations become more challenging. In my experience, I have always found children to be very accepting when explanations are honest, factual and calmly described. The risk to our children still remains small and we are reminded daily that this virus will affect the majority of us mildly.

If you would like some support in talking with your children about this subject, please have a look at the websites below.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/resources/school-resources/how-many-positives-activity-sheet/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/>

In addition to this, I have attached a social story to this email. Social stories can be used to explore difficult concepts and help us to talk about things with our children. Of course, and I want to clarify, we are not advising you to talk with your children about coronavirus if you do not feel this is appropriate, we are just providing something that might help answer their questions in a child friendly way.

I would also like to offer the support of our Family Link Worker, Mrs Lorraine Carter, who would be happy to talk to you about how we can support each other during this time. If you would like to speak with Mrs Carter, please email the office@raysfieldfederation.org.uk or contact her via a message on Class dojo and we will arrange a confidential conversation.

Mrs Carter is now on Class Dojo on the Learning Lodge Page. If you would like to be invited to join this page, please email the office.

PARENT PAY

Now all pre-existing orders on Parent Pay have been removed, you are able to order a school meal on this system. You can also use Parent Pay to book Breakfast Club space. Whilst the menu is not always the same as originally advertised, we are keen to provide a nutritious hot meal for your child and ensure our kitchen do not waste valuable food resources. If your child needs a hot meal during the day, and they qualify for Free School Meal or Universal Free School Meal we do have a takeaway (jacket potato or sandwiches) service. Social distancing measures will be put in place if you are coming to the school to collect a meal. A delivery service is available for those in self-isolation or vulnerable.

A gentle reminder that if you are in debt, please – if you can – pay this swiftly. A text reminder will be coming out to remind those who owe the school money. Please also be aware that Parent Pay runs like a bank and some of our parents need the credit they have accrued in Parent Pay to support them through this time. We cannot refund this credit as we still have debts to pay.

What about some home learning for parents?

Lots of our local further education colleges are offering free online courses at the moment. If you find yourself with some time for studying, you may wish to take up this good offer.

Sgscol.ac.uk/study/online

Thank you for your continued support during this time.

Very best wishes to you all. Stay safe.

Mrs Claire Hill