

Dear Parents,

This Friday would have been the end of the Spring term, and we would have celebrated Easter with our usual annual service at St Giles on Thursday. However, it now marks the end of the first two weeks of learning at home for the children. I do hope that they have enjoyed completing the English and Mathematics activities and the project work which their teachers set for this time. As I have already shared with you, the children are able to contact their teacher via the VLE chat room to answer any queries they may have. Thankfully the weather has been dry and pleasant for the children to spend some time in the garden. Long may that continue!

The next two weeks would be the Easter holiday period, and so no work will be set for this time. Please do encourage your child to continue to exercise at home, to read and be numerate through games, and to be creative. Work from the teachers will be posted for the children at the start of next term, on Tuesday 21st then on each following Monday morning between 8:30am and 9:00am, and will include English and Mathematics activities in addition to a range of other learning activities which the children should undertake. We have chosen to use work drawn up by education experts from the Learning Project as the basis of this home learning. It is age appropriate and offers a range of valuable independent learning for the children. The children can select their daily activities as long as all are completed across each week. This learning will be discussed when the children are able to return to school.

I did discuss with the children on our last day together the importance of social distancing. This has now become the national norm, and it is so important that the children do not mix outside of the immediate family in order to limit the potential spread of this virus that currently dominates our lives. However, it is important that they still have virtual contact with their friends and classmates, either through the VLE or by phone, for their emotional and mental well-being. Please do encourage your child to keep in touch while re-enforcing the importance of not seeing each other in person. (These are indeed unsettling times for all of us, and the children may not understand the reason for these rules.)

You will be aware that our staff have volunteered to assist with the care of Key Worker children as requested by the Government. We are pleased to assist in this way, and respectfully request that others do not visit the school premises during this time. There are very few staff on site as recommended in the guidelines, and we should all be limiting unnecessary contact as much as possible.

I do hope that you will all be able to enjoy some down-time over the Easter weekend itself. Usually this is a chance to spend time with wider family and friends, which is not possible at this time. However I do wish you all a peaceful time and for us all to have a return to social contact as soon as it is deemed safe to do so.

Mrs K. Tamlyn