



Somerford Primary School

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Dear Parents

We have reached the end of the second week of school closure and the end of the Spring Term.

Easter holiday

Next week will be the Easter holidays and therefore teachers will not be sending home learning tasks and will not be contacting you as I need them to have a break too. However, I will still be checking the office email daily and there will be some staff on site over the holidays so please do contact me if you need any support.

If you would like some activities to keep your child in some routine over the holidays, you can look at the home learning section on the school website. Your child's teacher will also have sent many challenges and ideas over these last two weeks which you can enjoy together.

Home Learning

I have heard from some parents that they are finding it challenging to complete learning tasks at home with their child and I just want to remind you that you are, and always will be, key to the success of your child's education. If you decide that your child is not going to enjoy one of the activities sent home but is loving another one, then go with it! Take the time to let their imaginations run wild, to be creative and to enjoy some physical time. Please do not worry that your child/ren are slipping behind. With home learning set to continue for some time, I am sure that the lure of the TV and online games might wear off and your children will soon be keen to undertake some of the activities set for them. (I am already noticing this in my own children!) When school resumes teachers will be able to quickly identify any gaps and address these as appropriate. Teachers are trained to do this! Our priority is ensuring families' mental health and physical well-being is nurtured. We will continue to send out new activities, ideas and links after Easter and there are many things on line to help parents at home. But don't forget simple things like reading a story together, drawing pictures, baking and running around in the garden (while the weather permits).

Continue to love and support your children, but remember to look after yourselves and try to minimise stress. All of us are finding our way in these unprecedented times, with children the world over in the same position. Finally, it is normal for your child to feel anxious at the moment, and isolated from their friends and extended family. This will be displayed more likely through their behaviour. Finding time to listen to them will be important.

Enjoy

Aspire

Achieve

Free School Meal food hampers

Thank you all so much for the positive comments about the hampers. We have given out over 100 hampers this week and we are so pleased to see people walking away with a smile. It has also been lovely to catch up with so many of you when you have collected. There were some items we couldn't source this time so we are working with our supplier to find different items for next time. We will send a message when the next hampers are available to collect. **Please** come to the school to collect or arrange for someone to collect on your behalf if you possibly can.

I would like to say a really big thank you to our kitchen team who have been coming in to cook for the children in school, provide take away lunches and make the hampers – they have been incredible!

If you are not yet registered for free school meals but believe you are eligible, please visit the BCP website and make your application on line. If successful, please bring a copy of the email (on your phone is OK) as we may not get informed straight away.

Questions and concerns

I know many of you have started asking your teachers about transition, new classes, when we will return, and so many more questions. We share all of these concerns but sadly do not have any answers yet. We are working very closely with BCP and receive regular updates from them. I also had a Zoom meeting last week with other Headteachers and BCP to highlight some of these worries. I was reassured that they were also considering them and plan to send out information to us when possible. I will ensure that gets passed on to you as soon as I can.

Staff

I am sure you would like to join me in thanking our wonderful staff team as we reach the end of this term for all their incredible flexibility, commitment and hard work over these past few weeks. Many of the staff are juggling being at home with their own young families too whilst learning to work in a completely new way. I am so incredibly proud of all of them.

Finally, I want to say a personal thank you to you all for your positive messages about what we are doing as a school and about our staff, along with some offers of help. In all of the calls I have made to parents to see how they are getting on, every one of them has also asked about me and my family and it just shows we really are all in this together!

Have a good, if different, Easter holiday and we will be in touch again soon.

Best wishes

Helen Frampton

Head teacher