

3rd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Home Learning

Since I last wrote, the major initiative we have been working on, has been the further development of home learning. Firstly, I would like to thank my staff for all their hard work in setting up the new pages on the website, and the development of Purple Mash.

Thank you to those parents who have responded positively to this new development. We are still very much learning in our approach. I will try to address some of the queries that I have been made aware of, and hope this will be helpful.

Every home, every family, and every child differs, and we are all trying our best, to respond to these challenging times. As an Academy we recognize this and as such, what learning is possible at home, will vary tremendously, both from day to day and over time. We need to be fair to ourselves and our children and recognize this, so although we have recommended routine and timetabling, this is an ideal, and not always possible in reality. A flexible approach will need to be taken, in order for us all to look after our wellbeing.

The work we will be producing does not all have to be done. Purple Mash for instance has a vast amount of materials to explore. We have tried to offer a range of activities, and variety is important. Having said this, we recommend the core learning of reading, writing and maths should be prioritized. We have started slowly with the 2do activities. Thank you to all those children who have submitted something.

Staff will be able to see who has submitted the 2Do activities but we are not monitoring in any formal way who is completing work. We are currently researching how we are going to use Purple Mash as a communication tool to enable dialogue between the teacher and home.

We have decided that we will not set work over the Easter break, which is to recognize that up to the lockdown the children and staff had been working very hard at the academy. The next work will be set on the 17th April and then weekly after this on Fridays.

Can I also remind parents that there are still home working packs in our hall, if you need this please contact the office to arrange collection.

Learning at the Academy

For those children that are able to attend at the moment I would firstly like to say how pleased and proud of them we are. It is a very unusual experience here currently, very quiet. We have a Nursery group, a Reception to Year 2 Class and a Year 3 to Year 6 Class.

We are using the mornings to focus on the core subjects of Maths and English and the afternoons are a little looser. We are offering these children access to Purple Mash during the day at school so that they don't miss out on what their friends are doing online.

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If your child is attending, then the home working activities can be done at home but it is only an option. I would say that if they are here all week then they are getting a good diet of learning at their level already. That is not to say if you or your child want to do more, or is attending part-time, that the activities can't be done as well. To repeat, it is a judgement for you and what is right for your child.

Easter

We are open to those families entitled to a place at the academy over the next two weeks. Thank you to all those families that have confirmed they require a place, numbers are significantly lower but we are still going to offer the same model as mentioned above.

We are closed to all pupils over the Easter weekend, from Friday 10th April to Monday 13th April inclusive.

Free School Meals

We have contacted families entitled to a Free School Meal over this time, to identify those who require a meal. Those who responded have had a packed lunch delivered by volunteers through GL11. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for this.

We have not heard from all families we contacted. It is not too late, so please contact the school office if you want to sign up.

School Office

In order to run the academy at a minimum number of staff, we are now running the school office from 8.30 – 1.00. Any concerns or queries you may have, please contact the office on 01453 542304 or by email at admin@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk Nursery parents can contact Treetops on 01453 543712 or treetops@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk

Can I remind you that we are posting our communications, Government guidance as well as children's work on our website, under Coronavirus. www.dursleycofeprimaryschool.org.uk/

I will be in touch again shortly and please take good care.

Best wishes

Paul Daniels