

24th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We do hope that you and your family managed to enjoy a good Easter weekend, despite the restrictions and enjoyed some of the glorious sunshine, whilst staying safe. Welcome to our first remote summer term!

We have all had to adapt to new ways of working over the last few weeks. As an academy we will continue to set some home learning tasks that your children could be undertaking in this time via our website. Our core aim with this home learning is to keep the skills your child has already learnt in school fresh in their mind. So daily reading, spelling, some simple writing as well as some core basic number work is key to achieving this aim. These require minimal input from parents and carers to enable them to access these tasks.

We have no expectation during this exceptional time about the amount of time children will spend on these activities. There may well be days when undertaking any of it is simply not possible and their own well-being (and yours as parents) may well mean that you need to put everything aside and read a book together, bake, dig the garden rather than complete a home learning task. We also recognise that many of you are also trying to undertake your own jobs remotely and this must take priority if we are to keep the economy running.

It has become clear too, during these first few weeks of lockdown how our online systems have been challenged by the increased need from households. We have therefore looked at the type of tasks we are suggesting pupils could undertake during this next period so that they include a mix of online and offline tasks. Our mixed approach of Purple Mash and other activities we hope provide this flexibility.

There are a lot of resources being continually released and mentioned. This can become quickly confusing and indeed stressful as you are trying to decide which ones are best for your child's learning. Whilst we will continue to sign post some of these to you, we would emphasise the importance of sticking to what we are suggesting to be done and to see the other sites as optional additions.

Keeping children safe online when they are using technology remains a high priority for all of us. Please be assured that when we have suggested online platforms to support your child with home learning tasks, we have fully considered your child's safety. Please could we ask you to support us by ensuring that the age-appropriate parental controls are activated to fully safeguard your child. If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, the academy website holds all the advice necessary.

As a school we have thought hard about how to keep in touch with you and your child moving forward. From this week we will be starting to contact you and your child weekly through Purple Mash and 2email. This will then enable your class teachers, children and parents to engage in a regular dialogue about learning and how things are going in general. The staff would love to hear from you. Further information about how to use 2 email and other Purple Mash developments will be in a separate letter attached to this email.

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e: [admin@dursleygloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@dursleygloucs.sch.uk)

[www.dursleycofeprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.dursleycofeprimaryschool.org.uk)



In addition, if parents wish to have a conversation with teachers that isn't appropriate for children then please contact the academy on the [admin@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk) address and we will make sure you are contacted. We recognise that this is an anxious time for families and for children. Our well-being pages on the website hold a number of resources to help you to support them.

## 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

We have had to adjust the times of our office at the moment. The school office will now be open from 8.30 – 10.00. Any concerns or queries you may have, please contact the office on 01453 542304 or by email at [admin@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk) Nursery parents can contact Treetops on 01453 543712 or [treetops@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:treetops@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk)

Can I remind you that we are posting our communications onto the website as well so if you are occasionally not receiving emails (or they are going into junk) it is well worth checking regularly,

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

Best wishes

Paul Daniels