

PILGRIMS SCHOOL

Following the PMs announcement

18 March 2020

Dear Parents

Further to the Prime Ministers announcement this evening I would like to confirm the following:

- Pilgrims will operate as normal tomorrow and Friday up until 6pm.
- The school will be closed to most of our pupils as of Friday but as announced, will remain open for children of 'keyworkers'. We are awaiting further details from the Government as to which professions this includes and will be sending out a further communication once we have this.
- We will be communicating further details tomorrow with regards to Home Learning and would encourage you all to read the information provided below (also detailed in my earlier update). I would ask parents with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to ensure their Purple Mash 'logins' are working and to complete the test activity.

I would like to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during this period of transition. Please be reassured your child's continued education and wellbeing is at the forefront of our minds.

Mrs J Webster
Headteacher

HOME LEARNING INFORMATION

Dear Parents,

We would like to share with you how Home Learning will be organised for the children should we have to close the school. Staff have been working hard over the last few weeks to put systems in place to enable all age groups to have a meaningful but, hopefully, achievable home learning experience.

Home Learning for each age group will be based on the relevant stages of development and staff will continue to use their relevant teaching documents as the basis of their planning. The learning will be age appropriate, so for our Early Years much of the work will be practical tasks they can do at home whilst our Key Stage 1 children will continue to have a mixture of some practical, alongside written tasks. Over the last couple of days Reception to Year 2 have been sent home some books and resources they will need for their home learning, once the time comes. Please keep these safe so you have them ready.

Organisation of Home Learning:

The learning will be organised into weekly chunks. At the beginning of each week your Room or Year Group will email you the learning which has been planned for the week ahead. This will be organised in the following way:

All age groups:

Children will have some age appropriate daily tasks to take part in ranging from having tummy time in the Baby Room to completing 15 minutes of TT Rockstar practice in Year 2.

Little Pilgrims:

Each room will receive a weekly 'Next Steps Activity Grid' and an 'Additional Activity List'. 'The Next Steps Activity Grid' will contain ten suggested activities for the week. We suggest the children complete one activity for each session they attend. So, for

example, if a child attends all day on a Monday and Wednesday (4 sessions), they would complete four activities. The activities in this grid are related to the identified 'next steps' for each room. Running alongside this, there will be a more general 'Activity List' which will be sent out to all rooms giving additional activities you might like to do with your child.

Pre School and Reception:

Children will receive 3 'Activity Banks' each week, a literacy, a numeracy and a Topic one. Each 'Activity Bank' will contain a list of five activities for the week with sets of instructions. We suggest the children in Reception choose one activity from each 'Activity Bank' every day and for Pre School one from each, for each day they normally attend. Alongside this they will also have an 'Activity Grid' with some additional activities on they might like to complete.

Year 1 and 2:

Children will receive a Literacy, Numeracy and a Topic/Specialist 'Activity Bank' each week. The Topic/Specialist one will contain lessons for IT, French, Music and Topic. We suggest the children choose one activity from each 'Activity Bank' each day. Alongside this they will have an additional 'Activity Grid' with some further activities on they might like to complete.

Purple Mash

Some of the activities for the children in Reception to Year 2 will require them to use their Purple Mash account. All children should have brought home their login details for this in their reading record last week. Attached to this email is a User Guide for parents which shares the areas of the program the children will be using. Once you have read the User Guide, please ask your child to log-in to the program and complete the '2Paint' task which has been set as a 'test activity' in the '2Dos' section. This will allow you to check that the system is working properly at home for you. Please let your class teacher know if you have any problems with the program. If you have problems logging in, please could you photograph the error message on the screen and email it to your class teacher. This will help us to identify and fix any problems.

You Tube

We think it is very important for the children to still hear and see the adults they are normally with in school. With this in mind, and to help keep that emotional link with us, each age group will provide some video links for some of their activities and these will be able to be viewed on our Pilgrims' YouTube channel. The planning you receive will provide the link.

Communicating with school during Home Learning:

The first Home Learning Week emails (which will be sent as and when Home Learning begins) will provide details on how each age range can communicate with their Room Leader/Key Person or Class Teacher. It will also provide details on how we have planned for feedback on the children's work along with activities which can be shared whilst they are at home.

Physical Activity

We would encourage all families to plan in some daily physical exercise for their children. This may range from playing in the garden or home, setting up an obstacle course or running up and down the stairs five times – please be careful! The Little Pilgrims Activity Lists and the Additional Activity Grids for Pre School to Year 2 will also give you some ideas for this.

Whilst organising the Home Learning, we have been very mindful that we are in unprecedented times and that families will have a variety of childcare arrangements in place. We realise that the ability to complete the activities will vary widely depending on the time you are able to spend with the children. Therefore, although we have put together a suggested timetable for each age group, when the time comes, please do what works best for you and your child as and when you can.

We hope all of the above is helpful in preparing you for your child's Home Learning.

Mrs S Quince
Deputy Headteacher