

Good Morning

20 April 2020

I hope you, your families and friends are well. This is of course the first day of the summer term but a very different day. Nevertheless, I thought it would be worthwhile updating parents with the most recent information that we have, which to be honest is not very different at all from the announcements made on the news each evening.

## School Re-Opening

There has been absolutely no talk or dates from central government in regard to when or indeed how schools will re-open. I realise that this topic is now getting a lot more coverage in the press but I can confirm that I have no more information than any other member of our community so I cannot shed any light on the matter. It remains the best option to use the Dojo app and keep in touch with your child's teacher that way.

## School Work and Contact

All staff will be back to working from home today. This means that they will once again be contactable over Class Dojo and I am sure they will take some time to review any posts that have been placed over Easter. I know Mrs Taylor and I really enjoyed looking at the various posts that parents and children placed, there was a great variety and some fantastic efforts.

Work packs for the first four weeks of this half term, were distributed in the first week of the Easter holidays. We also put them out every day for pick up last week and they will be out again this week. I have had a couple of parents asking about structure to the day and I noted that the news focused on this today. Firstly, you are all doing an amazing job, I'm not surprised as I expected you would be great but I am grateful for your efforts as the most important factors in all of this to me are the children stay safe and we keep learning. I suggest always getting onto maths, writing and reading first thing in the morning, for the younger ones 20 minute spells work well, for the older ones 45 minute sessions are good. This generally leaves the afternoon for different subjects, you can link this work by maybe building (technology) something they have read about or I've seen parents completing science experiments, art, baking, PE, all sorts.

I noted this morning that the BBC red Button and online platform has lessons (which are about 20 minutes I think) on their system. The link is below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

Also there has been an Oak National Academy launched this morning. This has online line lessons and is supposed to be running, I believe 3 lessons per day per year group for primary children. I will be asking our

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staff to have a look at these and use the resources where they see fit, but I know you as parents will have heard about it and may want to explore as well, so the link is below:

<https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom/schedule>

### **Free School Meals – Vouchers**

I know there have been significant issues accessing these vouchers, even once the emails (which have been running very late) arrive. I tried to ring the supplier every day last week and then when there was no answer I put in a request via email. I will continue to explore what more I can do to get this through but it really is a 'hands tied' situation, as once the order goes in I have no control at all to fulfil it, or increase the pace at which it works. I do apologise for this and if you are in desperate need, please get in touch via [office5@netherfieldprimaryschool.com](mailto:office5@netherfieldprimaryschool.com) and I will endeavour to do my best for you and your children.

### **IT equipment**

You may also have seen on the news yesterday that children described by the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson as "children in the most vital stages of their education for those who receive support from a social worker and care leavers" will be provided with a laptop. This looks to be Y10 children and any child who has a social worker connected to them. At present there is no guidelines on the how this happens or the when, but it is something that I will again keep me eye on and inform parents as and when there is more information.

I think that is all of the extra information that has come to light recently and as I have said throughout, if we can help or you are stuck with an issue, then do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kindest regards

Mr Crone

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