

Newchurch Community Primary School
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26th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are almost one week into our home-learning and what a week it has been!

The mental health and wellbeing of all our families is paramount at this time and we are here to support you as best we can. Even though we are not able to meet with you face to face, we have put together some guidance under our School Closure tab (Managing your family's health and wellbeing). This covers:

- A parent's guide to supporting a worrying child
- Parents as emotional coaches
- Parental guidance for supporting children with ADHD, ASD etc
- NSPCC positive parenting

There are also a number of links accessed through the images on the page which will help too.

We acknowledge that home-schooling, without the freedom to go outdoors and with children who may be struggling not seeing friends and family members, must be very challenging. As parents, our staff are finding this difficult too. Feedback from parents has been very positive but we appreciate that trying to complete tasks with children whilst also working remotely themselves could impact on everyone's wellbeing.

As educators we are expected to provide work for the children as ultimately they will be returning to school. These are unprecedented times and we have had to respond to guidance within a very short space of time. We were given two days to put together a full home learning package for all the children which I believe was a mammoth task, but we did it! However, we do appreciate that what is practicable at school is not always the case at home.

We acknowledge that the current home learning system is something that needs to be reviewed should the school continue to be closed for months rather than weeks. Therefore, we are currently working on the home learning for after the Easter holidays which takes into consideration the restrictions and challenges families may be experiencing at home.

The purpose of the home-learning tasks was to offer continuity and ensure that parents and children are not isolated from school by giving them tasks to occupy time and minds. Asking the children to complete tasks each day allows the children: routine, community, interaction with school, normality and a semblance of educational equilibrium. By asking children to post at least **one piece** of their learning to



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their teachers enables them to have interaction and support during these challenging times. Your child spends a considerable amount of time with the staff at Newchurch and it is important to manage the lack of daily attachment the children are used to. The online platform allows for this to happen and will help the children when transitioning back into school later in the year.

We apologise if any parent has felt under pressure to complete tasks as the last thing we want to do is put you under undue pressure at this time. However, as educators we have a duty to try to maintain some education within the children's lives and this, along with almost every school in the country, includes expecting some correspondence with their pupils regarding their learning.

Every day we are trying to respond to the needs of our families and find innovative ways of engaging the children in physical and educational activities. This morning we have created a 'Live Streams' page under the 'School Closure' tab for easy access the likes of Steve Backshall, Joe Wicks and David Walliams. Hopefully, you will have seen the online library too. This is something that we aim to develop further next week.

It has been fantastic to see all the additional activities the children are doing at home, not always linked to the home learning tasks we have set but that is just as valuable. Check out @NewchurchCP to see what our Newchurch robins have been doing.

With kindest regards,



Mrs J Narraway

Head Teacher



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