



Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery
Sheffield Road, Wymondham, NR18 OHL
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20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery will close to all children today (Friday 20th March) apart from a small number of keyworkers' children and vulnerable children who will be offered childcare from next week.

This is a challenging period for all and I appreciate you will have a range of pressures to deal with at this time. As a school we will ensure there is high quality learning for you to access for your children during the weeks ahead when they are at home. Below are answers to some questions I imagine you may have about how this will work.

As this is uncharted territory for parents, children and staff we must all recognise that our approaches will evolve and change over coming weeks. Staff have been preparing for this eventuality and what we will put in place are what we feel are the best approaches. As with anything we do, we will review and try to improve as we go along.

Supporting your child may be something you are anxious about and in the current tense times it can seem even more challenging. The children's memory of this national crisis will be heavily based around what they experience in the home. Don't put too much pressure on yourselves to replicate the school experience or try to run the same sort of timetable. Sharing books, listening to podcasts, watching the BBC education input that will be released and exercising together are as valuable as giving a Maths lesson. Discussing the news with them may be difficult and it is important to direct their attention to all those who are helping NHS workers, international coalitions or Scientists searching for a vaccine.

Below are some questions and answers that may help you understand the planned approach

How will it be accessed?

All year groups apart from Year 6 (who will use Google Classroom) and Nursery (Tapestry) will access their learning via Seesaw. These log-ins and passwords have already been shared with parents and the last newsletter encouraged parents to check they could access in case of closure. If you are not yet accessing these please check and contact the school if there are any issues.

What will it involve?

Teachers will post a range of activities covering key areas of the curriculum. For all year groups apart from Nursery and Reception children the following will apply.

Maths – We hope to have what is a very clear daily Maths lesson with the textbook pages for children to read, ideally with parents' support, and then an activity sheet or workbook for children to complete. Remember to try and get your child to explain their reasoning e.g. how they found their answer, why did they do it that way, is there another way they could do it? Don't rush it, let them take their time and work out different methods. The textbook will show the most efficient method for you to go over with them.

English – We will be using a range of resources including 'PIXL' resources. These will be posted by teachers and could either be completed by reading from the computer screen and writing on any paper or by printing out any activity sheets.





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For other subjects, teachers will create and post lessons or direct to high quality free online resources where appropriate.

Nursery and Reception will receive a variety of daily activities and challenges linked to topic learning throughout the week.

Can we contact teachers?

The platforms we use (Seesaw, Google Classroom and Tapestry) allow communication between parents/children and staff. We would ask that, certainly to begin with, you use this sparingly. At the moment, we do not know how many children teachers will be trying to accommodate in school or even if they will be being asked to support in other schools. Due to this I do not want to set an expectation of how frequently or promptly teachers will respond. As we develop a greater understanding of how this works, we may be able to agree a whole school approach. At this stage we do not have enough information to set expectations.

Will the school website and Twitter be used?

We are trying to focus on Seesaw, Tapestry and Google Classrooms and these can be managed directly by teaching and support staff. Whilst the school website is useful and currently has links for useful education sites on, it is maintained and updated by an external company so could create a bottleneck in us being able to share information. We will retweet things we feel may be of interest to do with children.

Will work have to be submitted? What if we don't know the answers?!

At this stage that will be left to teachers to determine when setting the work if they ask for pupils to upload anything. That may well not be workable but teachers will post the correct answers where it is appropriate e.g. in Maths so you can check if your child has been successful. Remember, don't be concerned if they aren't getting everything right. Mistakes are where learning lies.

Will there be live broadcast lessons or set times to do work?

The more I have researched this the clearer it has become that live broadcast lessons are problematic for several reasons. Primarily, households may have several children in different year groups and schools and if they were required to be online at a certain time they may not have enough devices or sufficient broadband capability. You may, however, wish to draw up your own timetable at home to keep some structure for children. Consider exercise, screen use, board games etc. being spaced throughout the day to break up their learning.

We will continue to communicate with you through the online learning and email and any changes to the above will be shared and explained.

Kind regards

Mr Sam Nixon
Headteacher

