



Sherborne Church of England Primary School

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20th March, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Home Learning and Communication Arrangements during School Closure

As I am sure you will be aware, the government has taken the decision to close all schools from the end of today. I am writing to reassure all our families that the school remains absolutely committed to supporting all of our wonderful children at this difficult time.

It is important to stress that the school being instructed to close is not for an early holiday. Teachers are still expected to plan, teach and assess lessons on a daily basis during their normal working hours. To this end, all children today have been provided with their login details to the school's learning platform - CENTURY (<https://www.century.tech>). This will be the main point from which teachers will share lessons and activities with pupils. Each day, children will be set three main pieces of work comprising English, Maths and one other curriculum subject. For our younger pupils, Mrs Baxter has prepared work packs which have been sent home today.

In addition to this, all pupils in Years 2 to 6 have access to Times Tables Rock Stars (<https://play.ttrockstars.com>). Daily practice using this platform is key to children learning, knowing and be able to recall the multiplication and division facts. All pupils have access to Maths Passport materials and teachers are able to provide guidance on these targets as well as issue certificates and new passports via CENTURY. Like now, children should still be reading every day for between 10 and 30 minutes depending on their age.

Mrs Parker will continue to monitor the school administrator's email account and send messages via parentmail and text. Should you need to contact the school regarding non-work related queries this is the best way to do so. An email account for each class has been set up in order for parents to contact their child's class teacher and vice versa. The address for your child's classteacher is:

hedgehog@sherborne.gloucs.sch.uk

fox@sherborne.gloucs.sch.uk

owl@sherborne.gloucs.sch.uk



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Please note that I have instructed teachers to monitor this account between 9:00am and 3:15pm Monday to Friday. When children return to school, these accounts will no longer be used.

The school will continue to send out a weekly newsletter to ensure that parents and the wider school community are kept informed, and hope to be able to include some of the things that pupils and families have been up to. Teachers will still be nominating pupils for the Star of the Week award and certificates will be given via email.

Along with the announcement to close schools, the government also stated that all formal testing for the 2019/2020 would not take place. This means the following assessments planned between April and July are cancelled:

- End of Key Stage 1 assessments (Year 2 SATs)
- End of Key Stage 2 assessments (Year 6 SATs)
- Phonics screening check for Year 1 pupils
- Multiplication tables check for Year 4 pupils
- Science sampling tests for Year 6 pupils
- All statutory trialling

The caveat to closing all schools was that schools were requested to offer a skeletal service of basic child care (not education) for children of key workers. This service will be for the children of workers such as doctors, nurses, fire fighters and those supporting the infrastructure. Parents are not required to take up this offer and some will not wish to. In addition, this does not override Public Health England guidance around self-isolation. Guidance on which children this might apply to was released early this morning so if you think you might be eligible and likely to take this up then please contact the school to discuss this matter further.

Finally, thank you so much for all your support over the last week in particular, when changes have been rapid and sometimes the guidance has been confusing and conflicting. It has been challenging, but your understanding and good will has been appreciated by all staff. We hope to see you all, healthy and well, very soon.

Yours sincerely,



John Moore
Headteacher



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Useful Websites

	Hedgehog Class	Fox Class	Owl Class
Reading (including phonics)	www.letters-and-sounds.com www.nessy.com www.phonicsplay.co.uk Username: march20 Password: home Pupils in Reception should play the games to Phase 3 to start with http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/	https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home	https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home
Maths	https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button https://nrich.maths.org/frontpage http://www.ictgames.com	https://nrich.maths.org/frontpage https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button	https://nrich.maths.org/frontpage https://www.candomaths.org/arithmequiz3.html https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button
Computing	https://www.scratchjr.org/ (free download for Android and Apple devices)	https://scratch.mit.edu/	https://scratch.mit.edu/
French	www.thefrenchexperiment.com/stories		
General	http://www.bbc.co.uk/school www.bbc.com/bitesize http://www.theimaginationtree.com http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies http://www.atschool.co.uk/ https://www.teachingandlearningresources.co.uk/games/ https://uk.ixl.com/ Twinkl is offering every teacher in England, access to all Twinkl resources with a one-month ultimate membership. They are also extending this to every parent, carer and pupil. Go to www.twinkl.co.uk/offer and enter code UKTWINKLHELPS		
About coronavirus	www.curiosity-box.net/corona-help https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround		

