

Friday 24th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. As you are aware, school remains closed to the vast majority of students, with no indication as to when it will reopen. We await government guidance with regards to this and will keep you fully informed as soon as we hear anything.

Home Learning

I am continually amazed by the fantastic work children are completing whilst at home – learning sign language, baking, Great Fire of London projects, creating amazing PowerPoints and so much more. Teachers love receiving what you

have been doing and thank you to so many parents keeping in regular contact with their child's class teacher. Hopefully you have found the layout for work this week easier to manage. We have had positive feedback from parents which is great. Our children in school have been creative making hand print rainbows and NHS 'thank you' signs.



Free School Meals

I would personally like to apologise to those families who should have received Free School Meal vouchers during the last few weeks. Unfortunately the company, Edenred, are having many issues distributing the vouchers and despite many phone calls, emails and time in online and telephone queues, they are yet to rectify whatever problem they have. I assure you we are doing everything we can to get vouchers to our families as soon as possible but we do not have any other choice but to deal directly with the company, which we have been doing. If any families feel they would benefit from support from a Food Bank during the next few weeks, please let us know and we will help to set this up for you.

People who meet the following criteria are eligible for the vouchers :-

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Unfortunately, even if your child does not have to pay for their school meal because they are in Y2 or below (this is known as universal infant free school meals), you will only receive these Free School Meal vouchers if you meet the criteria above. Parents can check eligibility by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals/staffordshire> and if after completion, you get a **green tick** please let us know and we will add you to the list. We will need proof and if you could send us a screen shot of your details and the green tick, that would be great. If you have already been contacted by school and are waiting for your vouchers you **do not need** to complete this form.

Government Links

The Government are releasing daily briefings and advice, some of which we are being asked to share with parents. I don't wish to overload you but the link below has the following information which you might find useful.

- Pre school ideas
- Primary ideas
- SEND support
- Mental Health support

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=cab989cd-0d5a-4ac7-9145-6445159c785f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Kindness and Resilience Activities

Over the coming weeks staff will be sending activities, on the weekly grid, linked to :-



- encouraging simple acts of kindness
- building resilience
- connecting the whole family and the community
- first aid
- wellbeing
- empathy

If as parents you would like to sign up to these free documents to access as a family you can do so by visiting <https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-involved/teaching-resources/sign-up-now>

Therapeutic Support Adviser Video Number 2

The second video from Claire Wilson has now been uploaded to our website. You can access this by following the link <https://www.pyegreen.staffs.sch.uk/more/chew-initiatives>. If you have any feedback regarding these videos or any suggestions for future videos please email office1@pyegreen.staffs.sch.uk

I appreciate these are challenging times for everyone but I thank you for continuing to follow government social distancing guidelines. Many of us have now not seen extended family members for many weeks and this is extremely hard but essential to keep everyone safe. Thank you for helping to keep our community safe and for your continuing support during these difficult times. **Please look out for our PGA message tour children and families.....coming soon ☺**

Take care and stay safe,



Sarah Yates
Acting Headteacher