

Carer and Parent Update

Covid-19

26th March 2020

Good morning!

Welcome to Day 4 of the battle against the spread of the coronavirus. The weather is helping ease some of the pressures of being at home and indoors for much of the day, but please remember that this is being done to make people keep their distance from other people to help reduce the risk of passing the virus from one person to another.

If your child is outside, please make sure it is within the boundaries of your property and that they are not gathering with others. This is a time now when families need to act together as families, and to do things because it is the right thing to do, not just for ourselves, but for others. If we all get it right, there is much less chance we get it wrong!

School remains open to children who parents are critical workers and to families who are being supported by social care at this time. I have less than 50% of my teaching staff available to work in school, so we are finely balanced at the moment.

Anxieties for all of us remain high, since the need to be in a shared space with lots of other people goes against the policy of social distancing.

Wearing a uniform has practical benefits – your child will wear the same things to school and they are separate from the clothes they wear at home. Since the virus may be spread through clothing, I'm asking please that the uniform is washed every night and that your child showers or bathes as part of the 'hand washing' routines to keep the virus from spreading.

Free School Meals – the government have yet to announce a National Voucher Scheme that they have promised, so schools are trying to find temporary solutions for now. I'm hoping we can be contacting families eligible for free school meals very soon with details of how we are solving the problem.



Please be aware – there is a **scam** going around pretending to be an official solution to the issue of free school meals, and asking families to send bank details.....

- **School is the only organisation you deal with regarding free school meals. If anyone else contacts you, ignore it but please let us know immediately.**
- **Do not, ever, give your bank details to anyone online unless you absolutely know who you are dealing with and why you are doing it.**

We have now lent out around 30 Chromebooks to help pupils with their learning at home. We want to continue to provide learning activities for our pupils at home along with the online learning they can access providing they have a device and are able to get on the internet. If you wish you had asked for a Chromebook, there is still time, just let school know.

Work packs have been distributed that contain the pupil's log in details and passwords for the online learning sites, along with a range of worksheets to get us all started.

Class leaders should be making daily contact with you, so please get into the routine of checking your emails every day. If needed, staff might also be phoning you, so do check your phones too, and if you have a missed call, give school a ring back.

I will be concerned if we haven't spoken to you on a daily basis, and if need be I may need to inform Social Care if we lose contact with you, so do please stay in touch. I have staff working from home who will be monitoring and sending emails, so sending an email is a quick and as easy as phoning.

Class leader email contacts:

Mrs Jones (Elephants): cjones@thomasashton.tameside.sch.uk

Mrs Whittingham (Turtles): lwhittingham@thomasashton.tameside.sch.uk

Mr Davies (Leopards): sdavies@thomasashton.tameside.sch.uk

Mrs Newton (Rhinos): dnewton@thomasashton.tameside.sch.uk

Mrs Price (Penguins): jprice@thomasashton.tameside.sch.uk

Mrs Stewart (Jaguars): estewart@thomasashton.tameside.sch.uk

Mrs Thorp (Tigers): mthorp@thomasashton.tameside.sch.uk

Ms Walker (Pandas): cwalker@thomasashton.tameside.sch.uk

Ms McDonough (Gorillas): kmcdonough@thomasashton.tameside.sch.uk

Ms Hutchinson (Dolphins): hhutchinson@thomasashton.tameside.sch.uk

The school Office: admin@thomasashton.tameside.sch.uk

Robin Elms: relms@thomasashton.tameside.sch.uk

We need to be realistic and understand that the routines we set now will help us greatly as we get through the next twelve weeks or so, and by working together, we can continue to help and support you as best we can, but we need you to let us know how things are going on a regular basis so that things can be addressed early if needed.

If you have any serious issues or concerns and need our help or the help of other agencies, please get in touch.

I want to say a huge thank-you to you all, because all the feedback I'm getting from staff is that you are all on board with what we are trying to do and working together to make it go as well as it can.

Lots of resources are being made available for free to schools and we will make sure the appropriate ones are passed on to you at home. Joe Wicks has made himself available to the nation this week with his 9.00am You Tube fitness sessions, amongst other things!

That's all for now. Please stick to the rules and keep yourself, and others, safe!

Robin Elms