



Blackawton Primary School Weekly News Update



Contact us: parent@blackawtonprimary.org.uk

13th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope that the Easter break for you and your family is going as well as can be expected in these difficult times, and that you are all staying safe and healthy. School has remained open for the children of key workers over the Easter holiday, and I am very grateful to the staff who volunteered to give up their time to make this possible.

It is now clear that schools will not be re-opening after the Easter holiday, and the signs are that we have to be prepared for the current situation to continue for some time. I wanted to remind you of key information that you might find helpful.

1. Home Learning

Given the potential length of the closure, as a teaching staff we would like to support you to support the children so that they can treat next Tuesday as the start of the Summer term.

It has been suggested by many families that having a clear routine helps with completing the tasks that will be set. However, what we also know is that we need to have flexibility and what may work one day, needs to be adapted for a different day or set of activities. You know your family circumstances and the resources that you have to complete activities. We know some parents are also working from home and there may be younger siblings who need to be considered.

All teachers will now be using Tapestry for setting home learning. Please let us know if you still need help logging in or have any questions on how to use it.

For more information please follow the links below <https://eyfs.info/files/>

Logging into your account <https://tapestryjournal.com/>

Teachers will be providing a broad and balanced curriculum. The whole school topic for the summer term is "Change."

Next week the teachers will send out a selection of activities on Tuesday and Thursday. The following weeks the teachers will send out the activities on a Monday and a Wednesday.

Teachers will be asking you to upload completed work to your child's Tapestry account. You will be able to ask questions, make comments and also add any additional learning that may take place. Teachers and Teaching Assistants will be monitoring these daily and responding to questions, providing some "live" marking and giving feedback.

We will evaluate the success of this as a way of working after a couple of weeks. We realise it is not ideal for us to "teach" in this way, but we hope that if all children and parents engage with this then we can make it work.

I have dropped off some exercise books in Blackawton Village Shop that you are welcome to collect. Please let us know if there are any other resources that you need from school.

2. Contacting school

We are following government guidelines in ensuring as many staff as possible can work from home. The school phone is not being answered. Please email parent@blackawtonprimary.org.uk and a message will be sent to the relevant member of staff to get in touch with you. You can also send a message to your child's teacher via your child's Tapestry account.

3. Support for key workers

Dartmouth Academy will continue to be open for the children of key workers.

4. Free School Meals

Vouchers are now being provided through the new Government e-voucher scheme. If you think your child may be eligible for Free School Meals, then please log into

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

5. Trips

All trips and visits that were planned for the summer term have been cancelled. The Finance staff are in the process of refunding all payments that have already been made.

We are all looking forward to the day when we can resume normal schooling, and in the meantime will do all we can to work with you in maintaining routines and learning as best we can. Thank you for your support, and wishing you all the very best,

Yours sincerely

Rachel Burris

BBC Home learning



The BBC is launching a series of daily educational programmes designed to allow children to study key national curriculum topics while Britain's schools are closed.

The daily Bitesize TV episodes, hosted by presenters including the Strictly Come Dancing star Oti Mabuse, with other famous faces expected to join later, will run for 14 weeks from 20 April.



Six different daily shows, each for different age groups between five and 14, will be produced every weekday for the BBC's iPlayer and red button services.

SIGNPOST

I hope all families are keeping well whether at home or still going to work and school this week. I have spoken to many of you during the past few days and heard great things about the time you are spending at home! If you have the opportunity, make the most of this unexpected time together - allow the pace of life to slow a little and focus on your wellbeing. The NHS website has some useful tips on taking care of your mental health during this crisis:

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/>

To our key workers who are still going out each day to support others - thank you! It is impossible to convey how much we appreciate all that you are doing. The National Counselling Society has many members who are offering reduced-price telephone or video online sessions to key workers at this time. Visit www.nationalcounsellingsociety.org/counselling-directory and select 'key worker counselling' in the 'Charities we work with' filter if you feel having someone to talk to would be helpful.

I also know that many of you work in the hospitality industry and/or are self-employed and worried about finances at the moment. I am researching organisations offering financial support to those that need it. Hospitality Action was offering grants to those who have been affected in this industry but they have been inundated with applications. Please visit their website www.hospitalityaction.org.uk for helpful tips and guidance. If you are able to support those affected by Coronavirus you can make a donation; if you require support, applications should reopen in the future.

Local Parish Councils, churches and Dartmouth Caring are offering services such as food deliveries and telephone befriending. If you would like to access these services you can contact them directly via their websites or send an email to your school office for my attention. I will contact you and the organisation directly to see how we can help.

If you know of any other organisations offering support during this difficult time, please let me know via the school parent email so that we can share this information on future newsletters.

Sarah Simnett

Information that may help you and your family whilst you are isolating at home

Online safety from the website thinkuknow

This page has been created to support parents during COVID-19 and the closure of schools. Each fortnight, we will be releasing new home activity packs with simple 15 minute activities you can do with your child to support their online safety at a time when they will be spending more time online at home.

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools/home-activity-worksheets?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=03cb8440df-TUK ONLINE SAFETY AT HOME 24 03 20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-03cb8440df-64729385](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools/home-activity-worksheets?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=03cb8440df-TUK%20ONLINE%20SAFETY%20AT%20HOME%2024%2003%2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-03cb8440df-64729385)

CHILDCARE

If you need alternative childcare then please go to Pinpoint <https://www.pinpointdevon.co.uk/parents-and-families/>

BBC Newsround

Help with explaining coronavirus to children

https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51861089?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=SocialSignIn

Sophie Carr is doing a family fitness session on Monday mornings at 9.30am. She would love to have other Blackawton school families join her and the girls.

<https://facebook.com/events/s/family-fitness-session/921710014951682/?ti=icl>

If you think that your child may be entitled to Free School Meals, please contact Devon County Council either by phone on 0345 155 1019 or by visiting their website portal at:

https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE

Feel good on the inside!



**Online interactive sessions for all the family.
Learn practical strategies for managing tricky
emotions and develop a stronger sense of
emotional wellbeing.**

Let's all find our calm.

**Sessions online via Zoom every
Tuesday and Thursday @ 2pm
For more information please email:
malouopenminds@outlook.com**



**£3 per 40 mins
session**

open minds

What have you been up to this week?



Indigo Dean has been busy building her own 'Bug Hotel'. It looks fantastic.

Whillan has been looking after his seedlings



Harvey & Charlotte made paper airplanes and then tested how far each one flew outside



Sienna & Olivia decorated their Easter Tree. They even made their own salt dough decorations for it