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Old Church C.E. (C) Primary School  
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Headteacher: Ms D Clacy



April 22nd 2020

Dear Children

### Daily Update

Well it is day 3 of the Summer Term. This is always my favourite term in school, as the sun is out and the children have been in their classes for 2 terms and know the routines. The only benefit this year is that our lovely children do not have to sit the SAT tests, which I personally do not agree with, as it puts too much pressure on our children.

### Lockdown

Gavin Williamson announced at the weekend that schools will continue to be closed until further notice and schools will not be expected to open over the summer holidays for children to make up the time they have lost. Schools have been told that they will get plenty of notice when they will reopen. (Hopefully not a midnight text to open the next day). We know this won't be for at least the next 3 weeks.

We are currently open for children of Key Workers and it is a pleasure having them in school. We have around 5 or 6 most days.

### Free School Meals

I think that we have now sorted out most of the problems with Free School Meal vouchers. They have been issued to all families and we have talked most people through how to use them. We heard yesterday that Aldi have now joined the voucher programme so you will be able to select Aldi to spend your next vouchers.

### Free Computers

The Government also issued a statement about children getting free lap tops. This is **NOT** for Primary children. It is currently for the children in Year 10 who sit their GCSEs next year.

### Home Education Sites

There are a lot of helpful sites emerging to support families home educating children.

- **Bitesize** education supports schools and families during the period of lockdown. David Attenborough and Danny Dyer are delivering the content. The site includes resources structured by Key Stage for Primary, Secondary and Post 16. There is also a parents' SEND Toolkit of resources.
  
- **Oak Academy**  
The Government have also launched an on-line learning resource called Oak Academy which provide lessons every day

- **Chester Zoo** offers a range of free online resources organised by Key Stage and subject providing educational material for children and young people during lockdown.
- **Elevenes with David Walliams**  
David Walliams is releasing free versions of his audio books currently at 11 o'clock each morning.
- **Family 5-** a parent has suggested this app as it has lots of activities to do with your child

HOWEVER, my strong advice is **only do what doesn't stress you at home**. It is more important that you come through this happy and safe than your child doing a piece of Geography! We will not ask you to send work back to school.

### **Parents and Children's mental Health**

We are attempting to make phone calls to all of our parents to check our families are OK. It is taking us forever. So many apologies if somebody hasn't called you yet. We are finding that many parents are struggling at home with the whole lockdown thing and having to become a teacher as well as a parent. If you are having a bad day or just want adult conversation please do not hesitate to call school so we can reassure you what a fantastic job you are doing!

I spent 4 days at home and I was climbing the walls with boredom and stressed my cat out so much that he ended up in hospital for 4 days! It is a pleasure and a privilege to be in work every day. If you want me to talk to you or your child please telephone the office or email.

Please continue to enjoy the sun and keep your families safe. We want to see you all back here when we are open again.

Kind Regards  
Davina Clacy