



PRIMARY (FOUNDATION) SCHOOL

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Wednesday 1st April 2020

Dear Parents

Covid-19 school closure update

We are now in the second week of national school closures and are all having to come to terms with the disruption. We hope that you are adjusting well, keeping safe and wherever possible staying at home to help the national effort to protect the NHS and save lives.

Friars and St Peter's amalgamation:

Although schools are closed to the vast majority of pupils it is still open to an eligible minority. You will know that we have been in a partnership with St Peter's since January. We have made the decision to amalgamate the schools until further notice. This means that from Monday 6th April, children who are eligible to attend from both schools will come together at Friars and staff from both schools will be working together to support them. The parents of eligible children have had more details sent separately.

Easter Holiday opening:

In these unprecedented times, schools will remain open over the Easter holidays (not including Good Friday and Easter Monday) to our eligible children from 8:55 to 3:25 each day. - -

Home learning:

Currently on each class page of the website is a letter detailing all the available resources to keep your children busy until after Easter. We have also posted additional open ended activities on the class page as well as a suggested timetable to help children structure their day. We are also currently trialling Google classroom which will enable teachers to set and receive work and communicate directly with children and parents. This is likely to go live after Easter and we will send out further communication in due course. We will also be using the class pages of the website with further activities and resources.

Free School Meals (FSM) provision:

Children registered as being eligible for FSM who are not attending school, have received Tesco e-vouchers to cover this week and last week. Going forward we will be using the national e-voucher scheme set up by the DfE. Eligible parents will be contacted directly about this.

Pupil wellbeing and e-safety:

Staying fit whilst at home for such a long period of time is a real challenge. We know, however, that exercise is of vital importance to mental health and wellbeing. Do try and get your children doing some form of exercise each day. The Joe Wicks daily workouts on youtube are proving to be successful with families! Also, a consequence of home learning is that our children are spending longer in front of an electronic devices than normal. Social media is proving to be an invaluable way of connecting with others in these isolated times. However, this increased screen time, also has its implications for student wellbeing. Please make sure you are supervising your child when they have access to screens.

Finally, please accept our ongoing best wishes for your family and friends, both those who are close at hand and those further afield. We continue to hold you all in our thoughts.

Yours sincerely

pp C Foster

J. Burt

