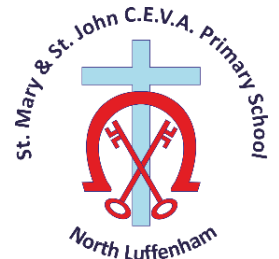


St. Mary & St. John

Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

North Luffenham, Rutland



Headteacher: Mrs Fiona Wilce

20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Re: School Work and learning expectations over the closure period

We now know that schools are closing until 'further notice'. We predicted, following the pattern in other countries that England would resort to this restriction too at some point. That time is now. It feels very strange, quite emotional and surreal. Therefore, the teaching staff had planned for this eventuality. My tremendous team have worked collaboratively and tirelessly to prepare and put together an exciting and comprehensive learning plan for children in every class.

Needless to say, we will now need your support. Your child may need help accessing the learning provided every day online. They will need your guidance and encouragement to complete it.

Today

Hopefully all kit - PE kits, trainers, coats, pencil cases, water bottles and wellies have been taken home. We can then clean thoroughly.

A pack of exercise books and reading books will have been sent home with your child, along with usernames and passwords for the different online learning platforms to be used.

Expectations from school staff

We are dealing with a life-threatening health pandemic but pupils are not on an extended holiday break from learning! The best thing we can do to reduce stress, anxiety and boredom is to try and keep to a daily routine, to stay calm and carry on! The expectation is that pupils will work daily from Monday - Friday during term time. We have drawn up a daily timetable/routine to support this, which provides for a varied day.

Teachers will have written a letter to you regarding their class specifics.

Teachers are working from home and a skeleton staff will be in school too, good health permitting. We need to minimise the potentially negative effect that a protracted school closure could have on your child(ren)'s education. Teachers will set work and communicate with the class via their class page on the school website www.northluffenham.org and using email. They may use other social media platforms too. The children have been shown the layout on the class page. Please have a good look with your child(ren).

The class pages can be found on www.northluffenham.org then from the 'School Life' tab, 'Class Pages' and then each individual class.

Daily/weekly work will include reading writing and maths, including times tables. There will be other physical activity and additional and varied activities to do too.

There will be tasks that need submitting by 3.30pm on Friday each week. This is to be a scan, copy or image of the work and needs to be emailed to your child's class teacher. (email addresses on the website) Feedback on the work will be emailed to your child during the following week. Therefore, it is important that we have your correct contact details, or know that you do not have access to email.

The teachers will make and upload podcasts to the webpages too. This will provide some personal contact with their teachers.

Expectations from children

The teachers are working from home during term time. We do expect the children to engage in the work being set remotely for them and to work to the best of their ability to complete it.

We expect written tasks, book reviews, etc. to be emailed on time. Late submissions will not be marked or feedback given! The teachers will monitor pupil engagement in tasks on the various learning platforms and they will monitor the submission of tasks via email. Parents will be contacted if it is clear pupils are not working. Pupils are to email their teacher if they are struggling with anything. The teachers are working between 8.35am and 3.40pm (we all know they work far longer than that!)

Expectations from parents

Your children will respond best if you are able to provide some routine, continuity and support. I appreciate that this may be difficult at times, especially if the weeks drag on. I hope though, that you enjoy spending time with your children, helping and encouraging them to learn at this precious time in their childhood years.

Please contact the class teacher if you have a query. They will respond during the school day to you, 8.45 - 3.30pm. Please do not email the class teacher daily just to give a commentary of how and what your child is doing.

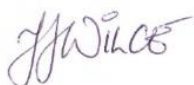
Please look out for the usual weekly newsletter on a Friday and share it with your child(ren). We will have Headteacher Awards for the children and any light-hearted bits and pieces too! Thank you Mrs Lister!

I will also use the school website and school Facebook page to keep up communications and add fun challenges for the children and for you as a family. I will use these and ParentPay mail to keep you informed of everything that is going on.

Churches Together in England have called for a National Day of Prayer and Action re the coronavirus pandemic. This is taking place on Sunday, 22 March. You might like to light a #candleofhope – at 7pm (GMT) and put it in your window as a visual symbol of our hope in Jesus Christ.

All that remains at this stage is to say a huge thank you all parents for your support, love, gifts and prayers. Please know that you are in our prayers too. Take care and look after your loved ones. Look after your neighbours too. I hope we all ride out this storm and get back to normal as soon as possible.

Take care and God bless,



Fiona Wilce
Headteacher

