



Wednesday 18th March, 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Hello! I hope that those of you who are in self-isolation already are coping as well as possible, and that our whole school community is feeling safe and well. We are all going to need to pull together to weather the storm of the Coronavirus. It's important to remain positive, keep calm and follow the sensible advice provided by the World Health Organisation and government at this difficult time.

As I'm sure you will appreciate, it's been a challenging week for all schools. At Sydenham, we are trying our best to maintain our usual high standards of education, with a reduced staff. Staff who are absent from school are following government and public health guidelines, and self-isolating for a variety of reasons, including underlying health issues; pregnancy; and family members having symptoms of Coronavirus. Thank you so much for your support, patience and kindness to our staff in these uncertain times.

We have been putting plans in place to ensure that your children will be able to access learning in the event of longer term school closure. We believe that the best ways to do this is mainly through online learning resources, rather than paper 'packs' which may only last for several days. We have set up subscriptions and accounts with various online learning companies, detailed below:

- Warwickshire WeLearn365 Portal:
 - Purple Mash
 - Espresso
- Oxford Owl – Floppy's Phonics – access to online reading books For Year R – Year 6. Your child's Class login details will be texted to you by the end of today.
- Mathletics – mathematics activities. Your child's individual login details will be texted to you today.
- Spag.com – spelling, grammar and punctuation activities for children in Years 5 and 6 (we will be extending this subscriptions for children in other year groups). Year 5 and 6 pupils' individual login details will be texted to you by the end of today.
- We are sending home a handwriting pen with each child in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) this afternoon.
- We are sending home a writing pencil with each child in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 (Years 1-6) this afternoon.
- We are sending home an exercise book for each child in Years 1-6
- We are sending home Early Years learning packs with Reception children today. These will include a small pack of colouring pencils, a pencil sharpener and handwriting pencil. These resources will only be sent home to children in Reception due to the nature of the Early years Foundation Stage curriculum and due to only having very limited stock in school.

If your child and family is already in isolation, we are making plans for a collection point for a family friend to pick up your child's pack and deliver it to you. More information to follow.

I have also set up a school YouTube account this morning! Please type YouTube into your search engine or www.youtube.com into your browser. Type Sydenham Primary into the YouTube search bar to see videos of our teachers reading picture books for the children. We will try to add more Story Time videos over time.

In the event of whole school closure, Class Teachers will set the following learning for children as a minimum:

- 30-45 minutes daily reading / phonics
- 45-60 minutes daily mathematics (fluency activities / investigations)
- 45 minutes daily cross-curricular writing
- Weekly Maestro Project work

Class teachers will share this learning with parents and carers via Teachers2parents, and with children via their Welearn email accounts, where age-appropriate.

Please look out for further updates from school. Stay safe and look after each other.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Juliette Westwood". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter 'J' being particularly large and stylized.

Juliette Westwood
Executive Head Teacher