

St Nicholas CE Primary Academy

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Christopher Dale - Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

School is now closed to almost all children from today until further notice.

The government has asked parents to keep their children at home where possible and for schools to remain open only for those children who **absolutely need to attend** and this advice includes Key Workers – only use the school on the days it is essential to do so and where you have no other alternatives.

While we have to manage as best as we can under the current circumstances, I feel it is very important for us to keep in touch with our Parent Community. That is why I will continue to share a newsletter with our families every Monday updating you with everything going on.

In the coming weeks I would like to be able to highlight some of the good work that I know will be coming in from the remote learning. As we all get used to this new way of working, it will be an opportunity to share some of the great ideas others will have during these unusual times.

While school remains open for key workers I have put in place five teams to cover the school. Each team working on a different day. The purpose of this is to make sure that no member of staff is at school any longer than necessary and reduce the chances of virus contamination. I am grateful to the staff for their help and support in putting this plan in place.

I am also concerned for our most vulnerable families during this difficult time. As a result we will put weekly contact calls in place. Mrs Starmer-Smith (SENCo) will be contacting our families of children with Children in Care, EHCPs & HNF as well as those with specific educational needs. Mrs Baker (FLO) will be contacting all of our families who currently have support from Early Help and Health and Mrs Clair Seiver will be contacting our Drawing and Talking families. If you are not on this list and would like any support, please contact the school on the telephone number above.

Keep safe & Best Wishes – Christopher Dale



Key Information

April 10

Good Friday – School closed

April 13

Bank Holiday Monday – School closed

April 14

School re-opens to Key Worker families only

Important Announcement

YEAR 6 Parents

Remember Secondary School **appeals** paperwork must be returned by **Friday 27th March 2020**.

PRIMARY SCHOOL OFFERS

If your child is due to start primary school in September 2020 you will be offered a place on **16th April 2020**. You will need to accept or refuse the offer directly with the school. *The deadline for returning the primary acceptance/refusal form is 6th May 2020.*

More Important News

YEAR 5 Parents PESE Process – 11+ information

Traditionally after the Easter Holiday we start to prepare parents for making the decision about whether they want their child to undertake the Kent County Council Kent Test. Normally referred to as the 11+. Normally the application process opens in June with parents attending a parent meeting in late April or May. This year this looks decidedly unlikely to take place.

As a school we will keep you up to date with this process, but for now we thought it best if we directed you to the Oxford Owl Blog, where it talks about Non-Verbal Reasoning and at the bottom of the page there is further information on different 11+ resources.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/blog/non-verbal-reasoning/>

Social distancing measures are steps you can take to reduce the social interaction between people. This will help reduce the transmission of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

They are:

- Avoid contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19). These symptoms include high temperature and/or new and continuous cough.
- Avoid non-essential use of public transport, varying your travel times to avoid rush hour, when possible.
- Work from home where possible. Your employer should support you to do this.
- Avoid large gatherings and gatherings in smaller public spaces. While schools are closed the idea is that children stay in as much as possible and do not have regular contact with others.
- Avoid gatherings with friends and family. Keep in touch using remote technology such as phone, internet, and social media.
- Use telephone or online services to contact your GP or other essential services.
- Try to maintain 2 meters (3 steps) from each other.
- Wash your hands regularly.

Everyone should be trying to follow these measures as much as possible.

What if I'm worried about my child or another child?

If you're finding it hard at home with your child and are struggling to cope call Family Lives for free, confidential advice on 0808 800 2222.

If you're worried about the safety of another child in our community, call Kent County Council Children's safeguarding services. You can call 03000 41 11 11 or email social.services@kent.gov.uk If you need to contact someone outside of normal office hours for example during the night, call 03000 41 91 91, or alternatively call the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000. **If you think a child is in immediate danger call the police on 999.**



Links for Families

Times Tables Rock Stars

For Years 2 – 6. Practice your times tables and earn points for your class. Weekly battles will be set. Challenge someone to a 'Rock Slam'

<https://play.ttrockstars.com/>

Numbots

Year 1 can practice their number bonds and follow a story at the same time.

Year 2 can use their TTRS login to access this too

<https://play.numbots.com/#/account>

Reading Plus

For Years 4 – 6. Children should all know their passwords to access this site. This is an online reading programme to improve children's reading skills and comprehension.

<https://login.readingplus.com/>

BBC BITESIZE

For Years R – 6. Bitesize is one of the BBC's most successful online brands and the cornerstone of their content. ALL the subjects are covered for every age range in the primary range.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>