



Elements Primary School



Wednesday 1st April 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that your family remains safe and healthy.

Thank you to everyone for being so sensible and proactive with keeping your children at home.

I wanted to update you on the situation regarding school opening as this changes on an almost daily basis.

We have had very low numbers of children attending school, some days just one or two. Today and tomorrow we do not expect any children in school and so for the safety of staff we will not open the building and therefore will be closed.

In order to plan ahead and to be able to mobilise staff and catering facilities only as necessary I have made the decision to close school unless we are contacted by any key workers who need us to be open. This includes during the period that would normally be the Easter holidays.

We are absolutely able and prepared to open for those children of key workers. However, I am sure you will understand that opening school when no children are due to attend puts staff at unnecessary risk.

In order for us to be open and ready for any children that need to attend please give us 24 hours notice that you are required to work and we need to provide care for your child. If this is going to cause any difficulty please contact me directly via the office email address.

Thank you to everyone for the fantastic levels of engagement we have had from the children on the Google Classroom. It is wonderful to see the children actively learning. We hope you have found the resources on there useful. Thank you too for all your amazing feedback. I am immensely proud of the staff for their commitment to ensuring the children's learning is as well supported as possible during this difficult period. We appreciate it isn't a perfect solution but hope it helps to support you supporting your children at home.

Many of you have asked about reading books for the children. Please see a note about this below.

Thank you for your continued support. Please stay home and stay safe.

Miss S Horsbrough

Executive Principal

STAYING IN TOUCH

We have a number of communication points available during this period of lockdown. Different staff are monitoring these and so it is very helpful if you could try to communicate via the appropriate channel for different queries or concerns.

For queries regarding chromebooks and Google Classroom - info@elementsprimaryschool.co.uk

For comments to other children in their class - children to add comments to the class stream

For all other queries and questions please use - office@elementsprimaryschool.co.uk

For emergency calls during school hours (when school is closed) - 07375391970

Please do not post questions and concerns on the classroom or Facebook as this will delay our chance to respond and may be directed to the wrong person.

Reading Books

We are aware that children are completing the reading books we have sent home and there have been requests to swap for the next one. The challenges we have are:

1. We have very few reading books left in school because they were shared out among the children already.
2. Unless absolutely necessary school will not be open to allow any books to be returned.

We are currently working through scanning our reading scheme books in order to share these with children electronically as necessary. Unfortunately this cannot be easily completed whilst school is closed. We will endeavour to do this as soon as we are able.

A video upload showing us the children completing their current book would be really helpful in terms of us sending them the book they need next!

Alternatively get your children reading any other books they have access to. If you are particular that they read the scheme books these can be ordered from Amazon but we would not recommend spending money unnecessarily.



Easter

We are approaching what would normally be the Easter Holidays,

We are planning to continue working through this period to allow the children access to continued learning opportunities.

We are also continuing our plan of opening for the children of key workers who need us to.

We will be adding our regular timetable of work as well as adding some project style tasks, some Easter themed activities and some additional handwriting practise guidance.

These additions to the classroom are there simply as an optional bank of resources to support your children through what would have been their WOW week and their Easter break.

It is great for us still to see what the children are up to and that you are all staying safe and well.



Free School Meals

Those of you who are eligible for Free School Meals should now have received an email with supermarket vouchers. If you have not received this and think you are eligible please email office@elementsprimaryschool.co.uk

These are not to be confused with Universal free school meals which children receive of in Reception or Year 1)

If you are unsure or if you are struggling for food please get in touch with us.

Awards and Prizes!

You will see on the Google Classroom that when children submit work there are marks to be awarded for each task.

We will be monitoring these marks and those children who have earned the most points each week will be allocated a ticket to go in to prize draw.

A draw will be made weekly giving everyone a chance to win a prize.

Anyone who has been entered into the draw will also be put into a cumulative pot which we will draw winners from at the end of this period.

Therefore children who gain enough points to be entered into the weekly draw will automatically be entered into the cumulative draw even if they haven't won during the week.

There will be lots of prizes on offer!



[Useful Links for Parents for further activities to complete at home](#)

CBeebies Storytime App

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/cbeebies-storytime-app>

This is a fantastic app for young children. Children can choose stories to add to their library and then either choose to read them or have them read to them. Throughout the story, children are asked to interact and there are three questions at the end to check the children's understanding of the story.

Scholastic

<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome/grades-1-2.html>

Scholastic are offering 15 days free content. Children can watch a story, read a book and complete tasks and games linked to the books.

Scratch Junior

<https://www.scratchjr.org/>

An app that children can use to program their own interactive stories and games.

GoNoodle

<https://www.gonoodle.com/for-families/>

GoNoodle is great for when you need children to get moving about. It includes dance, movement and mindfulness activities for children.

Instagram

There are lots of play accounts on instagram with ideas for play activities that can be set up using things you might have in the house.

[@the_play_at_home_mummas](#) - run by **Mrs Winstanley** and her ex-colleague (Early Years Teachers and parents to 4 children under 6!)

[@play.hooray](#) - run by a teacher-turned Play Coach and mother

[@fiveminutemum](#) - run by an experienced Teaching Assistant and mother

Twinkl Parents

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/parents>

Twinkl are offering free Home Learning Packs and resources for parents during school closures.

White Rose Maths Hub

<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>

Free access to 5 new Maths Lessons for each year group.

Classroom Secrets

<https://kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk/>

Free resources and games for children to practise Maths and Phonics for Early Years and Reading, Phonics, Grammar, History and Maths for Y1+.

Oxford Owl

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-school/oxford-owl-ebook-collection>

Oxford Owl have a free ebook library for everyone to access. Sign up for a free account and you will have access to 100s of books. Each one comes with activities to check children's understanding and you can choose to read them or have them read to you.

Audible

<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

Audible is offering free streaming of children's books for the duration of the school closures.