



La Moye Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we would usually have been learning about Easter and singing lots of lovely Spring and Easter songs...however, as I write, the school is eerily quiet! It is truly unprecedented times we are living through, and as you all have, we have been reacting to rapidly changing news and advice as the days and weeks have progressed.



I hope that you and your loved ones are well. At the present time, this is what is most important, above all else.

It has certainly been unusual times, and I would like to thank my team who have been simply fantastic volunteering to keep the school open during the Easter holidays for the children of our essential workers and those children that are considered vulnerable.



Over the past month we have transformed the way we are working, setting up and learning how to use online tools, such as Office 365 and Google Classroom, and working to ensure learning is prepared and sent home for the children. The staff have faced a huge number of changes to their working times and arrangements over this past month, and done so with such positivity and flexibility. This shows the commitment and dedication that they all have to their roles in school and to caring for your children. Thank you for all of the lovely feedback about the hard work that has been going on behind the scenes.

Easter Holidays and beyond

School will remain open to the children of critical and essential workers and identified vulnerable children only, where those children cannot remain at home, over the Easter break from 8am until 5pm weekdays (except the bank holidays). We already know who these children are and plans are in place to support them.

After Easter, we will continue to be open from 8am-5pm for the children of essential workers and vulnerable children who cannot remain at home during the working hours of their parents.

The teachers will not be setting any holiday work over the two week Easter break. This is a chance for families to have a break from school and spend time together. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us.



Home Learning

We appreciate (many of us are parents too!) that home learning raises a whole new set of challenges...so just to allay any concerns, here are a few tips:

1. Don't feel under pressure! You don't have to do everything that is set! Just do what you can, little and often. None of us work well when overly worried and stressed.
2. Focus on the basics- reading, spelling, handwriting, maths: times tables and number facts in particular.
3. There are so many companies and individuals offering online learning tools, videos etc...but you can't do it all, and offline learning is as important...reading, writing, drawing etc.
4. Don't forget to have fun, get in regular exercise (kicking a ball about, running, a cycle ride...), draw, paint, make, spend time in a woodland or garden...

5. If you can start a photo/video diary or newspaper/scrap book to capture what is happening in the world at this time, what we are doing to cope, and how it is making us feel, good and bad. This could become a great historical document in years to come.
6. Encourage children to email their teachers if they are really stuck. If you want clarification, feel free to do this too.
7. Enjoy being together. Whilst this all feels rather strange, try to make the most of this time. You could teach your child some important life skills like cooking and baking, sewing on a button or repairing something, basic woodwork skills, planting seeds and tending to a garden...etc! These skills are just as valuable as the traditional 'school curriculum'!

Google Suite and Google Classroom- Now Live!

If you were not aware we launched our Google Classroom this week for Key Stage 2. I know that some classes have already been using this tool to communicate and to set and complete assignments, and 'hand them in' when complete. If you have difficulty logging on, do email your child's class teacher. The teachers are nearly as new to this as the children, so please be patient as we learn this together!



Music In Action 'Virtual Choir'

Mrs. Baker has added a news story to our website about an exciting 'virtual choir' that Music In Action are running. It involves children learning some 1940s songs and recording themselves singing them, and uploading this. Details of this can be found on our website: Latest News- Virtual Choir



Times Table Rock Stars and Numbots

Since we launched this, 89% of the children in KS2 have been on Times Table Rockstars...in some classes this is over 95%! In Mr. Walters' class, it is 100%. Two people are now 'Rock Legends', 13 are 'Rock Stars', with 9 'Headliners'. Well done all.

If your child is not doing so well on the leader board, make sure they complete the 'Studio' challenges as well as the 'Garage' section as this is what gives them the times that are ranked.

On Numbots, 100% of KS1 children have played! Wow! Our top two children on the leader board have passed well over 200 levels so far!



With both systems, do remember, that the idea is the children practice easy skills first and they build up to much trickier sums as they gain in confidence. It is all about over-learning something until it becomes automatic, which is vital with these sorts of basic skills. The quicker and more accurate they are, the faster they progress. We are hoping for lots more success next term! We can see the progress the children are making, how long they are on each day, and what 'level' they are up to.

Plans for next term

As you can imagine we do not yet know what will be happening into next term. It has been confirmed that schools will remain closed until the end of April, and I am sure an announcement will be made over the next few weeks about what will happen after that. We will let you know more as and when we hear it.

Events that have been cancelled or postponed:

- Our Sponsored Walk has been postponed until towards the end of the Summer term.

- Our planned events for Liberation 75 are cancelled. We will be posting some online learning linked to this after the Easter break.

Events that are currently still on if school reopens in time:

- Year 4 Scout Hut residential
- Year 4 bikeability training
- Year 4 swimming sessions
- Year 5 St. Aubin's Fort residential
- French Trip (Current Year 5, Sept 2020) (However, for the moment we have stopped collecting payments for this. We will let you know when further payments are needed)

All other events are still scheduled to happen as planned.

I hope you all have a good Easter break. Don't forget about those Easter treats amongst all this we are living through. Sometimes things seem much better after a little bit of a chocolate treat! Hope the Easter Bunny stops by!

Yours sincerely



Mr. J. Baudains
Headteacher

