



Eastbrook Primary Academy

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Dear parent & carers

Before the Easter weekend, I wanted to send a message to all of our school community. It has been such a strange time, with some of us still in school but the majority of staff and children at home, so it feels really important to stay in touch. As I said to the children in our last assembly together, school is about the people not the building.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the families who have sent emails and messages of support to the school, these are really appreciated. There have been some lovely gestures, with people bringing fruit and breakfast items into school because our healthy snack service has been temporarily stopped. A few less healthy items have also made their way into school and the staff who are working here would like me to thank you for that!

Since the school had to partially close on Friday 20th March we have been working hard to create a completely different way of communicating with you all. We started with 'update emails' from myself and then we launched our Year Group emails so that children (and parents) could contact their teachers directly to share work and ask questions. This has proved really popular with the vast majority of families making contact. We also tried to make telephone contact with as many families as possible to check that they were okay, particularly if we hadn't been able to confirm that our emails were getting through.

As soon as we realised the school was likely to be closed we started preparing learning packs. These were to provide some work for the two weeks before the Easter holidays. We then worked on the Easter activities which are completely optional but might help to provide some ideas for Easter themed activities and learning. Please check the website for all of these if you haven't found them already.

After Easter we will be moving to project based learning with the same theme being shared across the year groups. This is designed to help families with children in more than one year group. The details will be shared via the Year Group emails and the website Home Learning page. Families in EYFS will continue to get support through the Tapestry app rather than a year group email as everyone is familiar with this system.

There will also be a weekly maths sheet which will include some more open ended learning activities. If parents are unsure how certain calculations are taught in school (as it has changed a bit over time) there is some additional support available on the home learning page.

All the activities going forward are designed to require less printing of worksheets as we know that not many people have access to printers at home. However we are still happy to provide paper versions for families who cannot access their emails or the website. Please ring the school office if you would like some assistance. We also have a range of resources such as exercise books, plain paper and colouring pencils if you cannot get hold of items like this at the moment. Again, please let the school office know or contact your teacher via the year group email, explaining what you would like.

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Alongside the weekly project and maths activities we will be building subject pages on the website, which you can look at for additional ideas. The Science page is the first one we have worked on. There is also a PE link to give you some ideas to try out at home and some PSHE (assembly type materials in a section called Picture News).

We will also continue to update our list of recommended on-line learning sites. The DfE has just produced a list and the BBC is also providing a range of additional programmes to support parents.

We have included a possible weekly timetable – this is not something we expect you to follow but we thought going forward it might be useful to some families who like a bit of structure.

Marvellous Me is being used to set challenges so if you do not have access to this App please contact the school office. We are also looking to use our twitter page more frequently which can be accessed from the school website so it would be great if you could join up. Once you have signed up to follow there can be a bit of delay as we have to approve followers to check who is accessing our tweets so please bear with us.

The PTA have been in touch to help coordinate the additional food needed in school and they are also working on what the re-opening party could look like! As part of this we would like to collect some of the amazing work and messages that the children are sharing with their teachers, if you share something which you don't wish to be used in this way please make sure you let the teachers know. The idea is that we will be surrounded by the work that we did alone to share when we are all back together!

After the Easter break we will share the details of one particular project that we would like all the children to get involved in to share that special moment when we are all back together again.

I miss the singing the most and I know the staff who are in school miss the noise and the buzz, it is very quiet.

To all the children I would like to say a special thank you for all the work you have shared with your teachers and all the lovely messages you have written. It sounds like you are keeping really busy. The staff are missing you all, so the more that you share with them the better. After the Easter holidays you can expect to 'hear' from them all a bit more but I won't spoil that surprise!

It is important that you remember our community values even when you are at home so keep being **kind** to the family around you and help them to stay happy by thinking about all the things that make you happy and sharing these with your family. We all need to be **positive** at the moment.

We hope that everyone has as restful an Easter as they can and look forward to catching up with you all as we look ahead to a Summer Term unlike any we have faced. There are lots of wise words flying around at the moment but we just want you to stay safe so that we can all get back together as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sherlock