



Newsletter



27th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thanks to all of our families and friends for the continued messages of support and the many positive comments the staff have received.

It is important to all of the staff to be playing our own small part in helping key workers fulfil their duties to keep us safe and healthy and the country functioning. Our immense thanks goes to all those key workers and in particular anybody working in the NHS or maintaining our food supplies at these difficult times.

Well done to all parents and carers for supporting children to access Seesaw. We are overwhelmed by the engagement of the children and have really enjoyed seeing their learning, both that which has been set by staff and children's own self-initiated projects. Thank you also for keeping your children in your own homes and gardens, safe and supervised, which will be really important in trying to break the chain of infections.

When online learning commences after Easter we will continue to support you in this and will be happy to answer any questions that you have about it. Initially, the priority has been to get the children set up and maintaining the connections with their class teacher, and as time goes on we can improve and 'fine tune' how it works for you.

I'm aware this Easter holidays is going to seem very different to our normal breaks, but I hope you are able to enjoy the time together nonetheless. Best wishes for a safe two weeks and please get in touch if you need anything at all, as the school email address and phone messages will continue to be monitored throughout the holidays.

Alice Purcell

Eggs-travaganza - we will be running an Easter competition for our pupils. Children can create a piece of Easter themed art of their choice. Please send photographs of entries to your class email address by Friday 10th April

Plans for After Easter

I am pleased to say that from Tuesday 14th April, after the Easter holidays, Ide Primary will be open for emergency child care for families of 'key workers' and for vulnerable pupils.

The provision will run in the same way as it has done this week with the aim of keeping the number of people needed in the school down to an absolute minimum. Please only use this facility if there are no other options for you. There will be a limited number of spaces available each day and we have been issued with a priority list to use if it becomes necessary.

Where possible please make sure you have booked your place each day and had a confirmation back from the school. This can be done through admin@ide.devon.sch.uk and this e-mail will be checked through the holiday. We would appreciate as much notice as possible but in an emergency we will always try to accommodate child care needs.

Home Learning

We have received some super home learning feedback so far - It has been lovely to see children uploading their learning for their teachers to see. Please keep this up!

There have been many more free online initiatives announced to help with learning at home and some of these are listed below:

David Walliams is releasing a free audio story every day at 11:00. You can access them through his website here:
<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

Audible are also offering their audiobook free to stream online here:
<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

Joe Wicks has daily PE sessions for children at 9:00 (we are doing these at school!):
<https://www.thebodycoach.com/blog/pe-with-joe-1254.html>

The Literacy Trust has set up a page with activities for use during school closures:
<https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/>

Fancy learning a language? Try Duolingo:
<https://www.duolingo.com/>

Bear Grylls has teamed up with the Scouts to create 100 indoor activities for kids to get stuck into while they're stuck indoors for most of the day.
<https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/>

What about some music? This youtube channel offers singing at 3pm Monday to Friday if you subscribe!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d2FDqTXkWE>



Something to Celebrate!

During the Easter holidays, Mrs Lockwood will be celebrating her birthday. Thank you for all that you do here at the school!

Special birthday wishes to any children or family members who also have a birthday in the Easter holidays!



Year 6 – *We are all very mindful that, depending on how things unfold over the coming weeks, this year group potentially may not experience some key events which are traditionally planned for children at the end of year 6. Please do rest assured that we will make sure that the end of their primary education is celebrated with their peers and school staff, whenever that can be, and that we will continue to work very closely with the local secondary schools around transition arrangements.*



Online-Safety – *For the safety of your children we would ask that you are particularly conscious of online safety and that you monitor what your children are accessing online*

Reflections from a teacher in China

We are just finishing our 7th week of E-Learning, seven weeks of being mainly housebound and seven weeks of uncertainty. We are healthy, we are happy, and we are humbled.

We are allowed to move around freely now with a green QR code that we show when we get our temperature taken. You get your temperature taken everywhere, and it's just become part of the routine. Most restaurants and shopping centres are now open, and life is coming back to our city.

As we watch the rest of the world begin their time inside; here are some of my reflections on the last seven weeks:

- 1. Accept that you have no control over the situation. Let go of any thoughts of trying to plan too much for the next month or two. Things change so fast. Don't be angry and annoyed at the system. Anxiety goes down, and you make the best of the situation - whatever that might be for you. Accept that this is what it is and things will get easier.*
- 2. Try not to listen to/read/watch too much media. It WILL drive you crazy. There is a thing as too much!*
- 3. The sense of community I have felt during this time is incredible. I could choose who I wanted to spend my energy on - who I wanted to call, message and connect with and found the quality of my relationships has improved.*
- 4. Appreciate this enforced downtime. When do you ever have time like this? I will miss it when we go back to the fast-paced speed of the 'real world'.*
- 5. Time goes fast. I still haven't picked up the ukelele I planned to learn, and there are box set TV shows I haven't watched yet.*
- 6. As a teacher, the relationships I have built with my students have only continued to grow. I have loved seeing how independent they are; filming themselves to respond to tasks while also learning essential life skills such as balance, risk-taking and problem-solving, that even we as adults are still learning.*
- 7. You learn to appreciate the little things; sunshine through the window, flowers blossoming and being able to enjoy a coffee in a cafe. To those just beginning this journey, You will get through it. Listen to what you are told, follow the rules and look out for each other. There is light at the end of the tunnel.*