



Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear parent/carers,

It seems as though the word of 2020 may well be 'unprecedented' but we certainly are living in strange and unprecedented times at the moment. 'Normal' has become something different from what it would have been even 3 months ago and as we move into week 7 of school closure, normal for your children has become daily emailed learning and weekly phone contact with their teacher. I continue to be overwhelmed with how hard our teachers continue to work to support our children in the best way that they can without having them in the classroom. I have heard from many of you that both parents and children enjoy and appreciate the weekly phone calls and I know that teachers are valuing that contact with you all.

### **School Reopening**

You may have seen in the papers and on the television that schools are reopening on June 1st. This is not the case as far as I and other Heads know: the Government have not instructed us that this is the case. When schools were closing, we found out at the same time as the school community – by watching the daily government briefings. I am hoping that we may get a little more notice but we are already working on plans for reopening – which is incredibly hard as we don't know the detail – but we are ensuring that we are ready as we can be. I will communicate with you all when I hear from the Department of Education/Government with a definite date. In the meantime, please don't believe everything you read in the papers or hear on television!

If you have some thoughts you would like to share with us about reopening, I would be very interested. For example, what are you missing about school the most, what are you looking forward to when the school reopens? What would you like school provision to look like? I think that we will need a graduated, relaxed start with us working to support children and bring the community back together. Please email any comments you have to the school office.

### **Social Distancing**

Boris Johnson has announced that he will reveal his plans for the removal of the lockdown on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May and, as with school reopening, there is much speculation around what this will look like. In the meantime, please follow the social distancing guidance set out: stay at home with only those living in your house and avoid contact with anyone not in your immediate household, including friends and family. Leaving your house for daily exercise for up to an hour is permitted but the rules around contact remain. Regular hand washing for at least 20 seconds with soap is vital, particularly before leaving your house and immediately on your return.

These rules are in place for all our safety: on our eventual return to school, I hope that every member of our school community returns safely, and we can only do this if we all follow the guidance set out.

### **Breakfast food**

We are fortunate to receive deliveries of food to support our Breakfast Club from the DfE's Magic Breakfast club programme and these deliveries continue throughout the school closure which means that we have a plentiful supply of bagels, cereal and tins of baked beans in school. If you would like to come to school to collect some for your families, it will be available between 9am and 3pm on most days – please check your texts for details. We are hoping that we will also have milk vouchers available in the near future.

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## **School Books**

It seems that some of the children are working so hard at home that they are beginning to come to the end of their exercise books. If you need a new book for your child, these will be available in the school office from today. Once again, please check your texts for our weekly collection times.

## **Message from Mrs Maddock**

Hello everybody

Here are few extra PE ideas and links in case Joe Wicks isn't for you or if you need some new inspiration. I would love to hear about what sports you have had a go at or new local places you have explored.

Joe Wicks is a great role model but it's not always easy to have a few members of the family exercising in the same space in front of the tv at the same time. Try making up your own circuits in your garden or at the park too.

These weekly challenges went live this week, maybe an Ivingswood pupil will be able to get on the leader board!

Bucks & MK Virtual School Games | Leap

<https://www.leapwithus.org.uk/bucks-mk-virtual-school-games/>

If you like yoga, try Cosmic kids. Lots on you tube, here are a couple of links:

Saturday Morning Yoga | The Wizard of Oz (and puppies!)

<https://youtu.be/ZSdmABQXt3E>

Zen Den | How to Make Good Choices - Mindfulness for Kids (Trailer)

<https://youtu.be/6cxt Ki4GSo>

Some of your children may be missing games - the teamwork and connection with friends that these sort of 'copy me' exercises can't provide.

Children from year R to year 6 really enjoy chase games. Find a safe, dry, clear area to play a simple game of 'it'/tag. (Parents, join in if you can! I had a go, my children are getting so fast now I struggle to tag them!) The younger children always have lots of ideas for chase games, you can be a dragon/scary dinosaur/gruffalo etc, link to their favourite stories or try 'tails' (tuck something in the waistband of the trousers that the chaser has to grab. We use bibs at school) or you can try it with 3 or 4 pegs attached to clothes instead.

Even in a small space this encourages quick footwork and changing direction and speed.

Step Tag. No running! We play this in our garden. It works well with two taggers but you can use one. The remaining players aim is not to be tagged.

Space out to start. A tagger calls out a number, eg "7" and everyone can only take that many steps in any direction, including the tagger/s. If you get tagged you become the tagger. (allow the other person to find a space before you start your turn) remember no running.

## **Home Learning**

Whilst we will continue to set learning each day and I will continue to encourage children to complete it through my emails, please remember that you are not teachers and we are not expecting you to teach your children at home. The work set may need you to support your child, particularly if they are in the younger years but they should be able to access it. There are enough stresses and worries at the moment without adding a daily battle over learning. Encourage your child to complete their learning, discuss with their teacher during the weekly calls any issues you may be having but also know that it is okay to miss a day or not complete an activity if it becomes a battle.

There has been lots of discussion in the press about children 'falling behind'. They may be falling behind where we would expect them to be, but that is all: every child is in the same position. When we return to school, we will catch them back up – that's our jobs and my responsibility to ensure that it happens. For now, your children's safety and well-being is the priority.

## **And Finally...**

From speaking to other headteachers, staff and parents, there are a lot of people who found last week challenging. You have had your children at home for the length of the Summer Holidays and we know that by then, parents are tired, children are bored and itching to get back into their routines and that is without the added pressure of learning and working from home and not being able to go outside or to visit family and friends.

I have seen various quotes about us all being in the same boat. I have also seen quotes about being in the same storm and everyone trying to find our own way through in different ways – this resonates with me. We also have different stresses and anxieties that we continue to deal with in the best way we can. If there is anything we can do to support you, please do not hesitate to contact us by email or text. We will always do our best to help or signpost you to where you can get support.

I hope that you and your loved ones continue to stay safe and well and look forward to seeing you back in school soon.

Kind regards,

Julie-Ann Swaysland  
Headteacher