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Executive Headteacher: Laura Watts

'Let us love one another, for love comes from God' 1 John ch 4 vs 11

17th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will have heard, guidance from the government means that all schools will remain closed for the time being – except to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. Staff have been working hard to keep our provision open over the holidays and I am very grateful to everyone who has volunteered to look after the children during what would normally be their time off. We are not open every day as the number of children we need to care for varies. So if, as a key worker, you find that your shift pattern, home circumstances or nature of your work change and you have no alternative but to seek **emergency** childcare, please let us know by emailing head@bsf.norfolk.sch.uk and we will do our best to help.

Even though school is closed, we want to ensure that you feel supported as parents to continue your child's education at home. I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that I completely understand the pressures which families are facing at home with technology, internet connections, space and time even without the added stresses caused by the epidemic itself. There is no obligation for you to educate your child in any particular way and you must go with whatever works for your family. What education looks like at the moment will be different in every home across the country and this is absolutely fine! The mental health and well-being of your family is the most important thing to us in school. Please remember this over the next few weeks.

We have decided that the best way to support you with home learning is to create menus, similar to our usual homework sheets, from which you can pick and choose the activities that your child would like to do. We will create a menu for each class to provide learning ideas for a 2-week period. You don't have to complete all of the activities and they might just inspire you to do something completely different. Please use the exercise books which you were given before the end of school to record learning as you wish.

We would ask that every child reads for half an hour a day and also completes half an hour's maths work per day to keep these key skills going. You might want to use the sheets provided by school for this or the websites which are listed on the home learning page of our website...

<http://www.blueskyfederation.co.uk/home-learning/> I have listed some more below.

As well as these home learning menus, we hope that all teachers will produce some short videos – maybe reading a story or sharing a skill which we will post on YouTube – more details to follow - and don't forget to keep an eye on the school Facebook pages where we have posted challenges for you to try out at home. Thank you to everyone who has shared photos of their learning at home. These have been a delight to see!

As always, please do email myself of your child's class teacher and we will endeavour to help with any problems. Teachers will be phoning the children in their class every so often to check-in for a chat too!

I hope that you all stay safe and healthy over the coming weeks,

Best wishes,

Mrs Watts
Executive Headteacher



Here are some new websites which have some good ideas for home learning.

<https://www.cathedral.org.uk/visit/school-visits>

lots of different resources for RE including virtual visits to places of worship from religions other than Christianity. Plenty of fun activities to get stuck into!

<https://www.youtube.com/user/OllieTunmer/videos>

Daily body percussion workshops! 11am

<https://www.activenorfolk.org/active-at-home-kids>

Active Norfolk are providing different resources every day to help children stay active at home. Each day will have a different theme...

'Make it Monday'- Make something to use (a target, a goal, a new game) or be creative with a physical activity poster, a certificate or a medal.

'Try it Tuesday' – Give something new a try, learn a new skill

'Wellbeing Wednesday' – Try some yoga, stretches and mindfulness ideas

'Timetable Thursday' – Active Maths and Active English activities

'Freestyle Friday' – Anything goes, be creative, be wild, be physical

<https://radioblogging.net/>

On weekday mornings, Pie presents a free, creative and interactive literacy show called [RadioBlogging](https://radioblogging.net/) at 9.30am.

The hour-long show teaches writing and children can post their own writing online and receive feedback. The show is ideal for home learning and school.

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

From Monday 20th April, the BBC website will offer new daily Maths and English lessons for every age group and BBC iPlayer and the Red Button service will host Bitesize Daily. These are six different 20 minute shows, each designed to target a specific age group, from ages five to 14, and for pupils throughout the UK. Experts and teachers will be involved, covering what should be learned that day for the different year groups and key stages. Maths, Science and English will be covered in dedicated programmes, and other subjects such as History, Geography, Music and Art will also be covered.

And please also check out...

www.mindedforfamilies.org.uk

Providing resources to support families who have concerns about the mental health of their children or other family members.

- Aggressive or repeated shouting
- Hearing hitting or things being broken
- Children crying for long periods of time
- Very young children left alone or are outdoors by themselves

These are all signs a child could be at risk.

**SEE SOMETHING
HEAR SOMETHING
SAY SOMETHING**

 Norfolk Safeguarding
Children Partnership

0344 800 8020

 Norfolk
County Council

In an emergency call 999

Help us to keep Norfolk's children safe

