

King Athelstan Primary School

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Headteacher: Emily Newton

22nd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you had a restful Easter break and that you are all well. It is a challenging time for everyone and we hope that you are all safe and healthy at home. It is very odd in school with so few children and staff. We really miss all the King Athelstan families, seeing you each day and being with the school community.

A few people have asked when the school will be reopening. The simple answer is that we do not know. We continue to follow the government's advice and will be in touch with you as soon as there is any change in the lockdown arrangements. Whilst it is really frustrating that the future is unknown, it is much more important that everyone is healthy and safe. Please only leave home when it is really necessary.

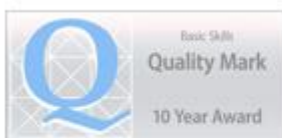
We are continuing to send learning slides home weekly. Next week we will send home the new Curriculum Overviews and Thinker's Projects for this term. We know the children will enjoy getting stuck into a new theme. Please do feel free to look at slides for other year groups and try anything you fancy!

Since we last saw you, a few things have happened:

- Mr Joe Porter has started as the permanent Headteacher at Darell Primary School. (He is definitely coming back to say goodbye properly.) We know he will be doing a fantastic job looking after their school family, just like he did at King Athelstan.
- Mrs Lucy Mastrocola has started as our new Deputy Headteacher. After the first few hours on her first day, she said that she felt really at home and as if she had been part of the school for more than just a few hours! She is looking forward to meeting you all.
- Mrs Naomi Ahearn has been appointed as our second Assistant Headteacher. She is in charge of Assessment and will be supporting Mrs Mastrocola with the development of Learning and Teaching. This is a position that has always been within our staffing structure, however, we have not appointed to it in the last couple of years.

If you have passed the school, you will have noticed that the old wooden canopies have been removed from outside Year 1 and EYFS. This work is essential as the structures had come to the end of their lives and sections were becoming irreparable. You may have noticed large sections of the roof had already broken in the wind and been removed. They are being replaced with steel structures that look really smart. The roof will be translucent - providing better shade for pupils working and playing under them.

We are delighted that the contract for the next phase of the KS2 playground development is almost ready to sign and we will proceed with this as soon as the current situation allows. We will write to you separately about this with more detail. It's a very exciting project that we think you



will love.

Sadly, some families may be seriously affected by the COVID-19 situation. Please do not hesitate to contact us via the school admin email address at the top of this letter or on our website, if you need us to get in touch with you to provide support for your child with a challenging situation e.g. a bereavement. Our Inclusion and Senior Leadership Teams are available for advice and support. We can also prepare resources that you might find useful. It is not a nice thing to think about, but we wanted you to be aware that we have things that might help you, should the worst happen.

Many of you will have seen the publication of an online book to help young children understand the current situation. Here is the link:

https://nosycrowcoronavirus.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Coronavirus_ABookForChildren.pdf

The creators of the Gruffalo, Julia Donaldson and Alex Scheffler, have also produced a series of Coronavirus cartoons, full of characters the children will know and love. The link is:

https://www.theguardian.com/books/gallery/2020/apr/04/gruffalo-axel-scheffler-and-julia-donaldsons-coronavirus-cartoons?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Gmail

Pip Bermingham, one of our EYFS teachers, has made a short yoga/relaxation video for children in EYFS and KS1. It is best to download it before you watch. The link is:

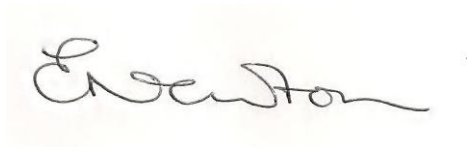
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/1mrd7a3sjfuuymv/PipRelaxationClass.MOV?dl=0>

Finally, families may be interested in this short film about the Hogsmill River that flows right past our school. It's well worth watching. Here's the link: <https://youtu.be/YNiRlwOqnXQ>

You can find all the resources mentioned here, and many others, on our website under COVID-19 Home Learning : <http://www.kingathelstan.kingston.sch.uk/covid-19-home-learning/home-learning-activities/>

Please look after yourselves and we look forward to seeing you all again as soon as we are able to. Remember not to put additional pressure on your family life by trying to fill each day with back to back learning. Everyone's emotional wellbeing is paramount, so please take time out to relax and just spend time together.

Kind regards,



Emily Newton and the King Athelstan staff team