



School Newsletter – 3rd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are at the end of term and the second week of our partial school closure. We are managing to keep the school open for vulnerable children and children of key workers. During the holidays this provision is going to be offered through Ashton Park Sports Centre. Many of our school staff are either shielding or self-isolating but we are determined to continue for as long as we are needed. There are many ways in which our lives are changing and I have no doubt that we are living in a time that history will remember.

Learning during this time

Every teacher in school has set work for the children; some is more academic learning like maths problems and writing, some is more fun and creative. Please remember that the most important thing is for you and your children to be safe and well. Please set a pace that is right for yourself and your child during this time. If you have any queries about the learning or just want to touch base with the teacher then please use the Class Dojo app. We are expecting all parents to get in touch with teachers on a regular basis. If we have not heard from you then someone will be in touch to check you are ok and to see if there is anything we can do to support you.

Next term we will be putting in place a system to give families access to the school reading books. We will be setting up a rota to enable parents to come safely onto the school site to swap books. More details will follow in the first week back after the holidays.

20 things to do over the Easter Holidays

Staff from the central Gatehouse Green Team have put together a 20 things to do over the Easter holidays challenge. The link is on our school website and here <https://ggl.t.co.uk/docs/General/easter.pdf>

Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains a focus for us in school. We will be available through the safeguarding@compasspoint.bristol.sch.uk address for any safeguarding queries. All parents and children have been given key safeguarding numbers and contacts. Many of the support services are continuing to operate but just in a different way. There will be a member of the safeguarding team on call throughout the holidays; please use the email address above.

Book Review

The Return of the Railway Children by Lou Kuenzler

It is based about 20 years after the original book 'The Railway Children' and follows the story of Edie, who is the niece of Roberta (the famous character from the first story). With bombs raining on London, schoolgirl Edie is forced to flee the chaos of the city for the safety of the countryside and a new home with her aunt Roberta. Brilliant for KS1 children to be read to, or for KS2 children to read it on their own.



Free school meals

All children who are entitled to a free school meal will have received an Asda voucher for the first two weeks of the lockdown period. Gatehouse Green Learning Trust has undertaken to support these families by providing additional vouchers over the holiday period. These will come to you in an email with a code attached, the new e-vouchers can be used in a wider amount of places and so can be more flexible. Each child will receive £3 per day, so the voucher value for the next three weeks will be £45 per child. I am proud that the Trust has undertaken to support our families in this way. If we do not have an email address for you we will print your voucher in school and post them to you. We will continue to send out vouchers to families for the remainder of time that schools are closed for.

Have your circumstances changes?

I have heard from many people that during this unsettled time their circumstances have changed; salaries have been reduced, jobs have been lost. If this has happened within your family then you may be able to claim additional support from the government like Universal Credit and as a result of this you may be entitled to free school meals vouchers. Please do not delay in telling us this. Can I ask that you email Mike and let him know. We will support you in any way that we can during this time.

SEND resources

Each newsletter will focus on a different element of school life. This week Miss Rowley is keeping us up to date with support for children with SEND during this time.

Bristol SEN have a general webpage offering SEN information to parents called the Bristol Local Offer. They are collecting SEN resources for home learning here.

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/web/bristol-local-offer/coronavirus-covid-19-home-learning-support-materials>

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for supporting your schools and communities by staying at home and protecting our NHS, I am sure you will join me in thanking those staff who are now caring for those children who are in school at this time. For those of you at home with your children, please use the resources we have provided if you wish, however ultimately we want you to be parents not teachers, you and your children's wellbeing is our priority and it needs to be yours too. This means doing things which are not directly school work, children will still be learning in different ways, have fun and make memories. Joe Wicks now has a million viewers, are you one of them?

We are aware that some websites are not coping well with so many people logging on at the same time. This is not something the schools can manage or fix, please be patient. Our IT resources are limited due to isolation and sickness and we are prioritising essential communication and planning.

Our schools are still providing very limited emergency care for parents who have no other care for their children and are in roles which are Covid critical; we are also looking after some of our most vulnerable children. We will continue to do this for as long as we can and are planning for sharing resources across the schools in the trust if one centre has to close.

Please continue to follow the guidelines, neither you nor your children should leave your home unless for essential reasons. Children should not be physically mixing with people, including other children, outside their households. These are very difficult times and please make use of the online or phone help resources if you need to talk, they are all on our school and trust websites.

I wish you and your families well and hope you can all find some joy in the midst of our challenges.

Sarah Baker

CEO, Gatehouse Green Learning Trust