



Christ Church C of E Junior School
London Road
Ramsgate, Kent
CT11 0ZZ
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24th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that this message finds you and all of your families still safe and well, at the end of what would have been our first full week of Term 5.

You will all now doubtlessly be aware that our government have, last week, extended lockdown for a further three weeks, at least. This means that there is still little hint as to when schools will reopen, or when lockdown restrictions may be eased. Much has been written and commented on this in the media, and it remains my view that such speculation is unhelpful. Please remain assured that we will continue as we have done throughout this crisis, to follow all relevant guidance from Public Health England, the NHS, Kent County Council, the Department for Education and our government.

As lockdown continues, I can't comment enough as to how proud we are of the resilience our children have shown during this difficult period. Teachers have been keen to share reports of children learning new skills whilst at home. There have been examples of children helping out around the house; taking responsibility for a pet and learning new practical skills through DIY, painting and gardening. There have been lots of cakes baked and new recipes tried.

Moving forward and into term 5 you will all now, I hope, have seen the updates we have added and are continuing to add to our distance learning pages of the website. Remember, please, if you or your child have any questions do not hesitate to contact the class teacher.

We are all very proud at school to have been able to remain open throughout what would have been the Easter holidays to support our key worker children and I thank you all, again, for continuing to observe the DfE guidelines in only seeking provision for your child if you are a key worker or your child is vulnerable, with you not able to keep them at home.

A huge thank you to all those families and staff who have been able to get involved in our video tribute to all NHS and key worker heroes, alongside anybody who may have inspired us at this time, that has been organised by Mrs Waller. We are due to launch the video via our Facebook page on Thursday 30th April. You can find this on Facebook by going to <https://en-gb.facebook.com/christchurchjuniors/>

Finally, I understand that this is a difficult time for many of us and that whilst we at school are here to help, we are not always best placed to support every issue we sometimes face and recognise that sometimes it's easier to talk to others. I would therefore like to draw your attention to a service that is being offered across Kent to support families at this time. Kent County Council has launched a new 24 hour helpline called 'Kent Together' to support vulnerable people in Kent who need urgent help, supplies or medication. The helpline will provide a single, convenient point of contact for anyone in the county who is in urgent need of help during the Coronavirus outbreak. It is a collaboration between KCC, central Government, District, Borough and local councils, the voluntary and community sector, the NHS, emergency services and other partners to ensure help is at hand.



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If you feel vulnerable and have an urgent need that cannot be met through existing support networks, or are concerned about the welfare of someone else, you can contact the Kent Together helpline at www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether or by calling on 03000 41 92 92. It is a 24 hour service.

Similarly, other additional resources are available via the links below to provide further support if useful.

The NSPCC has created Covid 19 – Parents Page, an online Hub providing advice and support for parents and carers during the coronavirus outbreak. Content includes: information on keeping children safe from abuse; tips and advice to help parents working from home; and ways to talk to a child who is anxious or worried about coronavirus. Please share with your networks, family and friends. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents>

The Under 12s Childline website (www.childline.org.uk/kids) has a new page to help primary age children make sense of the Covid-19 situation, with information and advice as well as tips for managing our feelings. There are also some lovely games and activities to help children manage their worries. <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus>

Kent Trading Standards are aware of a wide number of Corona virus themed scams operating. These can include fraudsters offering to do shopping or collect medication for vulnerable individuals and asking for money upfront and the disappearing. Trading Standards have produced a letter linked below to highlight these which we would like to share with parents/carers and their families: https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/106733/Coronavirus-scams-awareness-letter.pdf

In the meantime, please do continue to keep in touch, take care and stay safe.

All the best,

N. Tucker

Neil Tucker
Headteacher



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