



Shap C E Primary School

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Acting Head Teacher: Mrs Katie Chappell

“A Safe Branch from Which to Soar”

27.03.20

Dear Parents and Carers

As our first week of school closure ends, I thought I would contact you all with an update!

The Current Situation

We have been very impressed with how you have all adapted to homelearning! The website and emailing systems have been embraced and well utilised. Feedback from staff and families has been very positive, and any ‘teething problems’ have been worked through together. *Systems/IT* who manage our IT within school had to relocate midweek, which slowed down responses to any technical difficulties we had, but they are now operating from home, and ‘firing on all cylinders’ again! We have really enjoyed emailing with the children, it is good to maintain this contact, both for educational purposes, and for staff and children’s wellbeing!

Ann and Jeff, (our cleaner and caretaker) have been working very hard in school, ensuring that the school has had a deep clean, and that it is safe and secure for our enforced enclosure.

I have been very busy working with our Penrith cluster of schools, and together we have successfully managed to operate two hub schools in Penrith providing childcare for the children of keyworkers whose work is critical to the management of the COVID:19 pandemic. These schools will continue to operate over the next two weeks, and we will be moving towards a centralised booking system coordinated by the Local Authority

(<https://cumbria.gov.uk/coronavirus/serviceupdates.asp>). In the meantime, for any of our keyworkers (whose work is critical to the management of the COVID:19 pandemic) who require childcare, please contact me by email on head@shap.cumbria.sch.uk and I will be able to help you to make arrangements.



What next?

Traditionally, we would have been breaking up for our 'Easter Holidays' today, and looking forward to a fortnight's holiday! We find ourselves in an extraordinary situation, where our children and families will not be able to take advantage of the freedom that school holidays generally brings! We have been debating as a staff as to how we can best support you during these 'Easter holidays' whilst enduring confinement to our homes. We have chatted to some families to gauge feelings, and also thought about experiences of us staff who have our own young families too.

As everyone has differing views, we encourage you to do what is best for your children in your own personal circumstances, for example: take a complete holiday from homelearning or do a little bit less each day or have 'one day on, and one day off' etc.

We have agreed that our staff will continue to be there for you throughout the 'holidays', and lines of communication will remain open. Staff will continue to 'suggest' homelearning activities for you, but these suggestions will be less 'demanding', and less frequent. This will allow you to tailor your homelearning to the needs of your own children, and your own personal situation and philosophy. Do not hesitate to discuss this with your children's teachers and support staff if you wish.

Moving forward, I will be coordinating *Free School Meals* provision and organising emergency food parcels (available from the Salvation Army) for vulnerable families within our cluster schools. We are very fortunate in Shap that Pauline Harron has agreed to continue to receive *Fareshare* deliveries (food that stocked our 'Pop-up-Shop'). Pauline is organising food bags for families who would be interested, and she is happy to liaise with anyone who would like to receive these groceries; please phone her on 07538 587613 to arrange.

I wish you all well; please keep in touch, whether it be to share your good news, or your worries, I am here for you, and your children!

Kind Regards,

Katie Chappell

Acting Headteacher

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