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Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a very strange week here at Bridge School – Education (but not as we know it!)

I'd like to thank those parents who have made every effort to keep their children at home. Whilst sometimes unavoidable (especially for NHS staff), **every child in school increases the risk to them and to the staff who are coming into school to look after them.**

**The government guidance is clear – if a child can be looked after safely at home, they should be at home.**

The children who have been in school have been competing in sporting events, building bugs hotels, planting vegetables, doing their PE with Joe Wicks, listening to David Walliams, etc. We've also put out a shout-out on our Facebook Page to see what parents have been doing during this time.

Please, please do not feel guilty if you are not doing daily English and Maths with your children. I'd simply recommend continued use of Spelling Shed, Times Table Rockstars or Numbots alongside any other activities that you've been doing with your children – building dens, making chicken soup, etc.

### Free School Meal Vouchers

We have some families who are eligible for Free School Meals and, on Wednesday, I ordered vouchers for all of these families through [www.vouchers4charity.org.uk](http://www.vouchers4charity.org.uk) with Pilgrim's Hospice being my charity of choice.

**Please note that this is only applicable for families who are eligible. It does not apply to Universal Free School Meals for all Key Stage 1 children. If you think you are eligible then you need to apply.**

More information can be found here: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

### Brian Starling

Today was the funeral of Brian Starling and sadly, not everyone was able to pay their respects in the way that they may have wished. It was very touching to see so many people change their profile picture to that of the starling with keys designed by Greg Stobbs – it is a fitting tribute to him and his starling will be incorporated into our library mural.



### Residential Trips

Obviously, these cannot go ahead as planned. We are currently in discussions with Bore Place (Year 5) and the PGL Centre (Year 6) to decide next steps and hope to have more information for you in next week's newsletter.



Home-Learning Resources

Please keep an eye on the following pages on our website for home-learning activities:

**School Closure: Learning Packs**

**School Closure: Web Links**

Next week, I hope to have some more information about the education offer for after Easter.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Tibbles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

James Tibbles

Don't forget that this newsletter and all previous newsletters can also be found on the [Headteacher Newsletter](#) section of our school website.