

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April,

Dear Parent(s), Carer(s),

It was once said that, "There are decades where nothing happens, and there are weeks where decades happen." This has certainly been true of the last four weeks. On Thursday the government confirmed it was extending its lock down measures for another three weeks and there is continued uncertainty on how long this will be as schools have been closed indefinitely. It has certainly been strange being in school without the majority of staff and children, however we are adjusting and more importantly we are well and look forward to a time when we can gather together once again as a school community.

Over the Easter holiday break the school ran a successful sports camp which supported key worker families and was utilised by a small number of children over the ten day holiday. We are eternally grateful for the support of school staff who worked over the holiday to ensure that the provision for key worker children could be continued and that Corpus Christi children did not have to attend an alternative provision at another school. The school will continue its support of key workers and their children after the Easter holiday as the school continues to be closed. We would also like to thank Ms Ruiz for her patience and dedication in trying to unravel the continuing problems with the government's free school meals voucher scheme which has become an administrative burden and unfortunately affects some of our most vulnerable children.

We now turn our focus to the weeks leading up to the summer half term and remind you of the processes and resources that have been put in place to support your child's learning at home. On Sunday evening you will receive an email from your child's class teacher who has created specific Google pages for your child's class, with daily and weekly activities for English, maths, science, topic, RE, art and many links to music, reading, fitness and other online learning resources. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Miss Kriechbaum who pioneered the design and format of these pages and to all our staff who have provided content. Teachers will also email you regularly with guidance and encouragement.

EYFS teachers will send out weekly activities on Sunday evenings with the idea that children try to complete at least 2 activities per day. In Reception some of the activities can be completed online. The children will also be encouraged to at least read, practise their phonics and go on Mathletics as much as possible.

These resources are not designed to make you feel stressed, overwhelmed and pressurised. Try and get away from the idea that you are homeschooling your child. You are supporting them with distance learning. Do not forget that if children could all learn new concepts without specific teaching, we would not need teachers. Things will be covered again in school many times. Yes, you may have a timetable but do not worry if you deviate from it. It is important to take time to do other practical activities with your child too and of course keep doing physical exercise - it all helps.

Sadly, during the lockdown period, incidents of Domestic Abuse have risen. The Violence Against Women and Girls team (VAWG) in the council are working to publicise the support available and we would like to share this with you. In Lambeth, the Gaia Centre is still providing support via telephone, email and text – and recommend that people still call 999 in an emergency. There are also a range of key messages, helplines, and resources on their [newly updated website](#) . This also has a section on supporting children and has links to other relevant Lambeth webpages.

We will endeavour to continue to communicate regularly over the coming weeks and keep you and your families in our prayers.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jean Connery

Co-headteacher

Mr Robert Coyle

Co-headteacher