



Jerounds Journal

Dear Parent/Carers

I would like to begin by sincerely thanking those parents who have emailed in such wonderful examples of home-learning, over the past few weeks. Teachers and staff alike, have exalted in receiving such positive messages and carefully presented pieces of work, via the school office email address. Examples of work include: art work (rainbow posters), competition pieces in support of the NHS/key workers, science experiments, outdoor learning, gardening, cooking, magical mathematics, excellent English (stories and poems), strenuous exercise regimes and some general ideas for all families, that we have been able to share with you all daily, through our social media platforms.

Other families have tagged one or even two of our various social networks and thus showcased their children's superb creativity and originality, quite explicitly, with our whole community. Once again the response to our community 'sharing' has been quite breath-takingly positive - thank you.

Similarly, every Jerounds family has openly welcomed both Mrs Wallsworth and I quite sincerely and hospitably during our family visits and 'drop-ins'. Our journey has taken us through many different areas and we have heard children calling to us from windows, via open doors and even from trampolines in the back garden.

Likewise, our trips have afforded us the opportunity to see behold a whole host of 'J's' beautifully decorated and proudly displayed in house windows. It has been such a humbling experience and one that evokes immense pride in our community.

Visiting families has had the added advantage of teaching me even more about our lovely town, Harlow; campanology might shortly become a hobby of mine. In fact, I now feel suitably qualified to be either an 'Uber driver' for Harlow or possibly even a Deliveroo driver!

During one such visit, Mrs Wallsworth and I learnt of a local authority in the north-west of England, who have been using a fancy-dress costume of a Tyrannosaurus Rex to deliver packed lunches to their vulnerable children. As a vegetarian/vegan myself, I am not sure how I would feel about having to dress-up as the 'ultimate' carnivore - perhaps I'm more of a brontosaurus! Nevertheless, pour enthusiasm, spirit and resolve is to serve our community and offer as much support as possible during this period of national .

We would also like to remind our families from EYFS, Years 1 and 2, along with those children who qualify for a free school meal, that should they require a lunch daily, we are still providing fresh, food daily from our Ashlyns' kitchens, here at Jerounds.

Lunch is available for collection daily between 11:30 and 12:15. Please notify the school office via email should you wish to request either a universal free school meal or a free school meal for your child.

Other news:

We have received news that Axel Scheffler, the famous Gruffalo, has produced a FREE children's book about Coronavirus, aimed at 5-9 year olds and hopes to answer key questions, which children may well be asking parent and carers during these unsettling times. Please do access this book and use with your children.

Mrs Bell, contacted me two weeks ago with news that Cian, in year 3, had successfully qualified through to the next round of the BBC 500 words competition. Splendid news indeed! We now all have our fingers crossed for the next round too.

New Reception parents for September 2020/21 received notification today, whether or not their child had successfully secured a place at Jerounds for this September. Any parent who did not receive a confirmed place, as expected, should contact the school office immediately for clarification. We are lucky enough to have so many siblings joining our Reception classes this year too, which is always a great joy and a great opportunity for the older sibling to take on a more responsible, nurturing role.

I would like to conclude with another quick reminder for all our families, during this extended period of home-learning. E-safety measures must remain paramount at all times. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the adults in the household to control what, where and how much time children are spending on the internet. Likewise, it is essential that parents and carers have the necessary levels of parental control mechanisms in place, to keep all our children safe. Subsequently, I urge you all to review what your children are watching beyond the formal platforms of online learning. Fortunately, LGfL have produced two really great posters for keeping safe online. You can find them here: <https://coronavirus.lgfl.net/safeguarding>

I will be writing to you all again shortly, to explain the launch of our exciting new virtual learning platform - Seesaw, which we have extended beyond the computing curriculum in school, to now permit all children direct visual and audio access with their class teachers - in order to further extend learning opportunities. But, more of this at a later date...

Meanwhile, we wish you all a safe and healthy weekend and look forward to receiving many more exciting pieces of work from our talented community over the coming weeks.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Laura Çiftçi BA (Hons) MEd
Head of School



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