



# Moat Hall Headlines



## SCHOOL CLOSURE

I wanted to write to you at the end of what has been a very unexpected and challenging Spring term. For yourselves, your children and our staff it has necessitated a very different way of working. I would like to thank each and every one of you for following school advice and for trusting that we are making the right decisions for you, the children and our staff. Thank you for bearing with us and for keeping your children at home where possible. I know this must be a difficult time and having children at home is not always easy. However, home is the safest place for your child and you are the people they feel safest with.

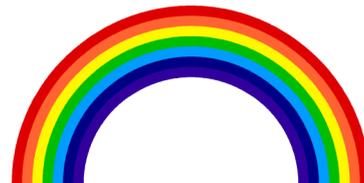
School remains closed for the majority of children, with only a very small number of pupils coming into school. For these children, the Government has been very clear that schools are now providing emergency childcare, rather than education, for children of keyworkers only. We are operating in a totally different way and working with a skeleton staff in order to consider their wellbeing also. Our staff have been fantastic in being flexible to ensure that they are able to come in and support this childcare facility and have played their part in enabling us to operate in this limited capacity.

With regard to home learning, there are no expectations from school about what you do or don't do. These are very unusual and unprecedented times. Teachers are communicating via class dojo and there are also resources on the school website under learning from home. It is not possible to provide structured day to day learning but the curriculum maps are also on the website giving you information on year group topics which can be matched on line. Some children will do a lot, others won't. That is fine. Please do not worry; everyone has their own circumstances and is facing different challenges. Do not battle with the children; just keep them safe and reassured.

I hope you and your family are keeping well and that we see you all very soon. School is very empty and quiet without you and I can't wait to welcome you back.

Kindest Regards

*Jane King*



### FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS

With regard to free school meal vouchers, these only apply to those children who meet the eligibility criteria and are accepted by Staffordshire County Council. They do not apply to those children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 who are all allowed a free school meal when school is open.

We are currently liaising with Edenred to get these vouchers to you as soon as possible and would ask you for your patience. We will do our best to get them emailed to you as a priority.

### **Easter Celebrations**

It is that time of the year to make your wonderful Easter Bonnets or decorate an Egg !

Once you have completed these activities ask your parents to take a photograph and send them to school. The best entries will be posted on our website.

So get creative and enjoy the Easter celebrations at home with your family.



Dear Year 6,

I hope you are well and happy. You might have heard on the news that the Government has decided to cancel the SATs this year. I know that all of you worked really hard to prepare for your SATs and some of you may be feeling disheartened. It is ok for you to feel like this but don't forget, talking to someone like your mum, dad, brother, sister or carer will help.

This is a strange time, however, it is a unique time too, another chapter of history is being written and you are a big part of it. In years to come when the children of the future learn about this in history, you will be able to tell stories about what happened.

I want you to be proud of the work you have done this year and remember that all your hard work will be of benefit to you in the future. This is why it is important for you to continue working hard from home .

I know that lots of you were looking forward to doing something special with your friends after SATs to celebrate your success and hard work. I want to let you know that when things go back to normal and school opens again, we will arrange something special for all the year 6 children. *Mrs King*

## TOP TIPS FOR FITNESS

WALK AROUND INSIDE YOUR HOUSE OR OUT IN YOUR GARDEN IF YOU HAVE ONE

PLAY THROWING AND CATCHING GAMES

GO OUT FOR A WALK OR CYCLE AS A FAMILY

JOIN IN WITH JOE WICKS ON YOUTUBE

HAVE A SKIPPING COMPETITION

WATCH JUST DANCE OR GO NOODLE



## Please remember:

- ☑ Our children might be scared at the moment. They see and hear a lot, even when we think they don't.
- ☑ Their routines and structures are disrupted. They will feel tension and anxiety from the adults around them. It is a completely new situation for us all.
- ☑ They may react to all this by changing their behaviours and showing behaviours you have never seen from them before. This might be difficult for you and your family but it is natural and to be expected.
- ☑ Your child just needs these feelings to be acknowledged and to be reassured that you understand that life is just that bit less predictable at the moment.

Under these circumstances, home learning may well add to this anxiety and stress – for them and for you. In that case, leave it. Instead, cuddle on the sofa and watch a film. Share a book and talk about it. Bake and cook together. Paint pictures, create and make. Play board games. Do science experiments. Travel the world via Google Maps. Go on virtual tours of museums, art galleries and zoos. Look at old photos and tell stories about family members, some of whom your children have never met. Write letters to those you cannot visit at the moment.

However, for some children, a learning routine may be exactly what they need. They might thrive on structure and routine. They might be bored or anxious about not learning. They might be desperate to feel connected to their class mates or teachers. They might love learning online and fly through tasks. Don't worry about their academic progress. All of the above will help them. Every child is in the same boat at the moment. They will all be ok. When we get back school, after celebrating being back together again, we will pick up from where we left off and meet your child's needs like we always do. That's our job. So, use the learning resources – or don't. Or anything in between. Just have fun spending time together.

## GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

The government announced that we should only leave our homes for the following very limited purposes:

1. Shopping for essential food and medicines
2. One form of exercise a day (a walk, a run) alone or with members of your household only
3. For a medical need or to provide care or support for a vulnerable person
4. Travelling to and from work only if absolutely necessary.

**STAY AT HOME**

**PROTECT THE NHS**

**SAVE LIVES**