



Park Community Academy



22 May 2020

Twitter: @PCABlackpool

Headteacher Update - Important Information: Today is officially the start of our Summer half term break. As you're aware your child's teacher contacted you on Wednesday to discuss proposals around a potential phased return for our children on a part time basis during June & July. I wanted to take the opportunity today to provide an update on that proposed offer. Keeping our pupils & staff safe remains our main priority and after careful consideration the Trustees of the Sea View Trust have taken the decision to delay the phased return until Monday 8th June. We will therefore defer providing any further information around that wider opening until after the half term break.

As we approach week 10 of lockdown, our social media networks - the school website and the 4 PCA Twitter feeds (@PCABlackpool, @PCAprimary, @PCAsecondary & @PCAWSFC) have really proved popular and important in keeping in touch with our wider school community. Despite the pandemic, PCA has maintained a high profile, featuring in the local press on a number of occasions and also on national radio & television in recent weeks. Miss Barlow showed just how much the staff miss the children with her fabulous and catchy song 'We Miss School and That's Ok' <https://youtu.be/59XRopAEJf8> We know just how difficult it has been for all our children & families during the lockdown period. Things will start to improve, but for now we must all continue to follow government guidance - 'STAY AT HOME AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, STAY ALERT, CONTROL THE VIRUS, SAVE LIVES'.

Home Learning at Park Community Academy



Since lockdown, we have been busy keeping the website updated with home learning activities. Each class has a folder under the 'Home Learning' section of website with a variety of fun and meaningful activities for pupils to complete whilst they are away from school.

Primary activities are based on six curriculum areas, Literacy, Maths, Expressive Arts and Design, Understanding the World, Physical Development and Personal and Social Development. They are designed to be a mixture of online learning and activities that use everyday objects within the home. Secondary activities reflect a variety of curriculum tasks/ideas, as well as 5 Maths and English tasks to complete.

In order to provide pupils and our families with feedback or guidance on these activities, we have also created class emails, where photographs and pictures of the pupil's work can be uploaded. These class emails can also be used to update staff on any other fabulous things that are being done at home such as learning to change a duvet cover, bake a cake, or ride a bike, all things that are just as important as the home learning activities given out by staff!

For families who don't have access to the school website, home learning packs continue to be sent home so that pupils can stay up to date with the things that they need to be doing whilst learning from home.

Thank you all for your hard work, we love seeing what you are learning at home and will regularly upload the relevant twitter feeds to show off the good work! Stay Safe and keep learning!



Blackpool Council Corona Kindness Support Service

Follow this link for contact numbers and resources for support with food, medical/prescription, gas/electric bills and well-being.

<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Campaigns/Coronavirus/Corona-Kindness.aspx>

We know that this can be a challenging time so here are **some top tips from our Learning Mentors** to help support mental well-being: -

- PE with Joe every morning Monday-Friday at 9am.
- Do some baking, cupcakes & biscuits are easy to do & can set your creative mind at work when decorating them.
- Go for a walk/run/bike ride if your able to, fresh air does us all good!
- Bring your duvet downstairs, dim the lights and snuggle up and watch a film in your own make shift cinema, with popcorn of course!

Lower Primary

Whilst staff have provided learning activities weekly via the class blogs, PCA website and Primary Twitter page, our parents and pupils have been the real stars during the lockdown period! It has been fantastic to see what the youngest PCA pupils have been up to at home and it is clear to see that lots of learning is still taking place and our parents/carers are to be congratulated for their resilience, imagination and creativity in supporting their child's learning.



Pupils have been taking part in various play-based activities whilst learning from home. Our younger pupils learn best through hands-on and practical activities, which can be used to learn a range of skills across the curriculum. For example, when baking children are practicing their weighing skills (maths), understanding of changes (science) and following a recipe (literacy).



There has also been lots of learning taking place outside with pupils completing scavenger hunts and gardening activities.

And last but not least, pupils have been accessing online learning platforms such as, Education City and Bug Club. It's fantastic to see all the pupils in Key Stage 1 taking part in a range of learning activities. We are all very proud of you, keep up the good work!



School Nurse Update

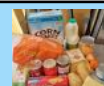


School nursing are still continuing to provide a service and are able to be contacted by calling 01253 955640. If you are worried that your child or yourself may be displaying Covid-19 symptoms then contact 111 and follow the guidelines that are provided.

If it is a medical emergency then please seek appropriate medical attention but please inform you children that staff will be dressed in protective clothing that can look intimidating and frightening for some young people.

Stay safe and follow guidelines there is a rainbow at the end of every storm.

Food Parcel Update



We would like to thank Blackpool Council and the School Catering Service who have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure that our 175 pupils who are entitled to a Free School Meal have a 5-day food parcel that they can come to school and collect each week.

Collection is available every Tuesday between 10-2.30pm from the top car park. A big thank you to those of you who come and collect the parcels, it is great to see you all and hear what you have been up to.

We would also like to thank all the staff who have been supporting the FSM delivery on home visits over the weeks and to the drivers who have been supporting deliveries.

Upper Primary



Our Key Stage 2 pupils have been very busy whilst they have been at home but one thing they all seem to have done is grow taller! All of the staff who have seen them during home visits or zoom meetings have commented about how tall and grown up everyone is looking.

We've also had lots of pupils developing their life skills. Frank, Sarah, Marley, Liam and Connor have been busy baking. Under close supervision Mason has learnt how to make his mum a cup of coffee. Jacob has helped decorate his bedroom and Kyle has been a star helping to Hoover and tidy his room. All important essential life skills they will need for the future.

Many pupils have been enjoying the glorious weather and have been spending time in the garden either playing in their paddling pools, water slides, trampolines or gardening. Lee has even been camping out in his tent.

There has been lots of messy, creative and imaginative play taking place with many pupils drawing, painting and colouring rainbows. Connor has completed a Lego challenge, Ollie has been playing with ice, Rory has been creating characters from his imagination and Samuel has been studying maps and globes.

Lots of pupils have been accessing the online learning platforms such as Bug Club and Frog Play while others have been practicing their fine motor skills and writing. Madison can now write the 'S' in her name and was delighted to show her teachers.

We are all very proud of how well the pupils have coped during these very strange times and would like to say well done to everyone!



Key Stage 3

We are super proud of our Key Stage 3 Pupils who are learning more life skills whilst at home. Not only are they learning and practicing ways to be more independent, they are also helping out their families in the home – well done! Here is Aaron from 3I making the most of the good weather and painting the garden fence and Ruby in 3Gr making some tasty jelly for her family to enjoy!

We are really pleased with the efforts our pupils and their families are making to ensure safe, purposeful and varied home learning is taking place. Pupils are logging onto our online educational platforms regularly to keep up with their reading and maths work. Also families are emailing work to staff, including photos of what their children have done. Here is a picture of a home-science lesson from Elisha in 3W who is making a 'lava-lamp'! Some pupils have carried out independent research on topics of interest, for example Jorja in 3W has been learning all about the Egyptians. We miss seeing all of KS3 everyday, but we are really proud of the work you are doing and the progress you're making.



Key Stage 4

All our children have been busy working from home with their families. We want to say a massive thank you and well done to everyone at home during this time and we love seeing your home learning activities and ideas being sent to us to share on our website and Twitter feed.

KS4 pupils took part in the WSFC km challenge to get from Blackpool to Paris and then beyond. Pupils tweeted in their photos of their daily exercise to contribute to the challenge.



Many of our KS4 pupils have been enjoying carrying out those essential life skills at home with plenty of cooking, baking, cleaning and painting and decorating going on! It has been fantastic to see some of our GCSE Art pupils carrying on with their passion for creation at home.

We said goodbye to Mrs Armstrong this half term and during our safe and well visits home her class contributed to a 'Goodbye and Thank you' video which was tweeted from the Secondary Twitter Feed. It was fantastic to see so many of the pupils getting involved in saying thank you.

As a nation we celebrated VE and pupils at home and school alike sent in their VE Day Celebration Contributions to show what they have been doing to commemorate such an important event.

We know it has been a challenging time for our pupils & families at home and that you are continuing to remain upbeat and making the most of your time together in the home with your parents, carers & siblings.

Summer Leavers - If you are transitioning onto your next steps at the end of this year, your chosen College will be in contact soon. Don't worry if you haven't heard from them yet, all applications have been submitted and the Colleges have assured us they will be in contact with you soon!

If you are in Year 11 and transitioning onto WSFC for Year 12 – you do not need to do anything. Miss Gardiner will be in contact over the next half term with information regarding September. But if you have any queries don't hesitate to get in touch with us in school.

Examinations - As we are all aware with this year's disruptions, examinations and external courses may not have been fully completed for Year 11 and our Sixth Formers. However, do not worry – we are all working hard to make sure you all still achieve the qualifications you deserve this summer. Your hard work will still be recognised & accredited and results day will remain the same on Thursday 20th August. We will send you more information about this nearer the time.

How to keep in touch

Don't forget you can keep up to date with what is happening on Twitter – @PCABlackpool, @PCAprimary, @PCAsecondary and @PCAWSFC.

You can also look at our website at www.park.blackpool.sch.uk which is regularly updated with the most recent Coronavirus information for parents.

Transport - The link to apply for transport for the new academic year is: <https://selfservice.blackpool.gov.uk/ss/renderform.aspx>

The deadline is 29th May for pupils in Year 6 and above who wants their child to access transport next year. You will need to have completed an ONLINE application form by that date. If you need any support with this process get in touch with our Children & Family Support Team.

Key Stage 5 (WSFC)

We were delighted to start the Summer term on such a positive note with Westbury Sixth Form Centre receiving a SEND Exceptional Outcomes Award from SSAT in recognition of the high standards of teaching and learning and high quality curriculum we offer. This is a great achievement for all as our innovative practice is nationally recognised!



It's been fantastic to see and hear what you have all been up to whilst keeping safe at home. We have enjoyed seeing you all practice those important essential life skills, helping with the chores at home and cooking up some tasty dishes in the kitchen!

The work you have all produced is something to be proud of and it's been great to share this together via our home visits or during class zoom meetings. Keep up the great work, keep smiling and stay safe!

Coco's Corner

Coco is missing everyone terribly! She can't wait to get back to school to see everyone again and have lots of cuddles and fuss.



Whilst she has been working from home, Coco has kept up with her training and has been learning to play football and rugby – although she does tend to just get the ball and run away..... oh wait, that is football and rugby isn't it! She is also learning to balance a treat on her nose before she eats it. If you know how much Coco loves her food, you will know how hard this is for her to master, but she is practising every day so fingers crossed she will manage it soon.

What we are missing is her regular hair cut – Coco is looking all fluffy and wooly, a bit like a bear! I have had to trim around her eyes so she can see, but like us all she is looking forward to a proper haircut when she can!

Luckily Coco has company at her home with a couple of cats to chase and two loud, energetic children to play with but it's nothing like being at PCA. Coco celebrated her 2nd Birthday at the end of April and loved your messages to her and says thank you!

Coco sends her love and lots of licks and hope to see you all very soon!

Online Safety



Screen time can offer children opportunities to learn and develop new skills at the touch of a button but, like anything, too much of it can have a negative effect on their wellbeing. This is a great time to talk to your children about their online lives and make sure they stay safe while playing and chatting to friends and a perfect time to check all the parental controls and restrictions are set for the appropriate age groups.

The Internet Matters website contains useful guides and advice to help you with this - <https://www.internetmatters.org/>



Don't forget you can get lots of ideas of things to do with your children during screen free time from Pobble's website: <https://pobble.com/home-learning-resources>.

There are lots of parental help guides and app help sheets on the National Online Safety website. Some of these can be found on the school website following this link:

<https://www.park.blackpool.sch.uk/parents/other-information>

Or all guides can be found directly on the NOS website following this link: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

Speech & Language Therapy

Don't forget our Speech & Language Therapists are contactable if you have any questions, comments or concerns about your child. Please email kathryn.cosh@nhs.net or hannah.large1@nhs.net or call 01253 951101.



Here are their 5 'top tips' to support our children with their communication: -

1. If your child makes a speech sound error exaggerate the speech sound they are having difficulty with when you repeat it. This helps your child work out where they are going wrong e.g. "S...oap".
2. Be positive in your modelling and correction of speech sounds or words. Don't say. "it's not a tat, it's a cat, say cat", this may confuse your child and may stop them saying the word again for fear they will get it wrong. Instead repeat it back to them, with lots of praise.
3. Avoid asking lots of questions or trying to get your child to repeat words, instead comment on what they are doing. for example, instead of saying "what are you doing?" say "you are riding your bike".
4. When giving an instruction or waiting for your child to respond to a question, make sure you wait for 10 seconds. This will give your child more time to process the question and form an answer.
5. When talking/explaining new words/concepts to your child ensure you use visuals such as objects, pictures, gestures or facial expressions.