



NORTH TAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PARENT AND CARERS NEWSLETTER

22nd March 2020

AIM ASPIRE ACHIEVE

Dear Parents & Carers

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these challenging times. Some of our responses to the crisis are still being formulated as we wait for further clarification and guidance from the Government. I will be keeping you updated as I receive advice from the MAT and the Government.

Please read the following information carefully.

The school is closed from Monday 23 March 2020 except for

- Children of key workers
- Children with social workers
- Children with Education, Health and Care Plans

If your children are not in these groups, they should remain at home with appropriate care until further notice. If pupils not in these groups attend school they will be expected to be collected from school immediately.

Pupils attending school will be collated into registers. Our usual safeguarding procedure for phone calls to parent(s) will still operate for an expected child who does not arrive in school.

Children coming to school will not be required to wear school uniform but should be dressed appropriately, with sensible shoes/trainers and without jewellery.

We will continue to follow all guidance regarding health, hygiene, and social distancing within school.

Free School Meals

We are working out a policy while we wait for government guidance. We will ensure that all children who are entitled to, and wish to receive a free school meal, will receive one, whether in school or not, next week and going forward.

Extra-Curricular activities

All off-site visits, extra-curricular activities, and sporting fixtures will cease with immediate effect. If you have already paid for a trip, we will try to refund you as soon as possible.

Three Hares Curriculum

We are planning to provide daily activities in English and maths, and a weekly project consistent across the schools. Children at school, and those who are 'home-learning', should receive the same curriculum offer.

Children will access work via links on the school websites and/or via email. Children should complete work daily. Where possible, this should be emailed to teachers with attachments/photographs etc. Teachers will continue to monitor, assess and feedback as appropriate. If teachers do not receive work on behalf of a child, they will make contact with the parents. Please note that teachers' emails will not be checked outside of normal school hours.

We have given children Home-Learning exercise books in which to complete their work. If you still require a book (or stationery items) from school (if your child has been absent for example), please contact the school. We would like to support you as far as possible to ensure your children continue to progress with their learning.

Routines at Home for Home-Learning

Please establish and maintain a good home routine with your child during this unusual period:

- Get up, wash and dress, ready for the day
- Breakfast
- English and maths activities in the morning, with a break in between
- Lunch/play
- Weekly Project activities in the afternoon

Try to establish a dedicated space for your child(ren) to work. Teachers would love to receive a photo or drawing of where your child is working at home!

Statutory Assessment Tests

All statutory assessments have been cancelled for this academic year, including Y6 and Y2 SATs, Phonics Screening, Science Sampling Tests and the new Multiplication Tables Test for Y4.

The secretary of state for Education has said that the Government 'will work with the sector and Ofqual to ensure children get the qualifications they need'. We will of course keep you informed about this.

Links to current advice

Please do check these pages regularly as they are updated constantly.

- NHS Health information and advice
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Guidance for educational settings on COVID-19
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>
- Ofqual's 'further' statement on coronavirus re Examinations
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-a-further-statement>
- Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
- Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable people at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

If you have any concerns or questions about the above information, please contact us by Dojo/phone/email rather than arriving at the school. Unless you have registered your child as instructed following the questionnaire, then please DO NOT send them to school.

I believe that as a strong community we can adapt and rise to the challenges of this crisis. I trust that we will all continue to work together in a spirit of understanding, tolerance and mutual respect. Our staff team is working incredibly hard to provide support and learning for everybody. I am sure that you will join me in thanking them for their dedication.

Stay safe
Miss Chauhan