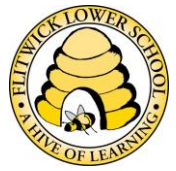


FLITWICK LOWER SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mrs J.New
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4th January 2021

Dear Parents

Tonight the Government announced schools would close in England from Tuesday 5th January and will be closed until February. This is devastating for us and the children as I'm sure they were really looking forward to coming back to school.

The school will still be open for vulnerable, key worker children and children with an EHCP and we will revert to the additional controls we had previously back in March, where we will teach these pupils in much smaller bubbles. School will reopen to this group on Wednesday 6th January.

Can we please ask that if you wish to apply for a key worker place for your child you complete the form available on the website from 8am tomorrow morning and by 12pm tomorrow so we can confirm places by the end of the day

Priority will be given in the following order:

- Vulnerable children
- Child of a single parent who is key worker
- Child where both parents at home are key workers
- Child where one parent is a key worker and no other child care option is available

If there is another parent at home we are asking that you do everything you can to keep your child at home to help minimise the risk of transmission of COVID 19

Learning at home will mirror the provision in school and all planning and work is available on the learning platform. From next week we will include either live or recorded teaching sessions for you to use at home with your child. These will be delivered by one of the teachers in the year group, this may not be your child's class teacher as some teachers will be providing face to face teaching in school.

The class teacher will make contact with their classes through zoom so they can have face to face direct contact. These sessions will be timetabled and communicated to you over the next few days.

we will:

1. Provide online learning through the learning platform, a user guide is on the home page of the website with passwords for Foundation, Year 1 and 2. Year 3 and 4 children already have a personal log in. The self help guide is very clear but if you need any assistance then please contact the school office and we will help you or email the class teacher directly on the class email.
<https://bedfordshire.itslearning.com>
2. Maintain email contact with everyone – flitwicklower@gmail.com and through class emails



3. Communicate via our school ping app – if you are having problems with this then please email in now so we can put in place other options.
4. Ensure the website is updated daily with any further updates or messages. These will be found on the home page so you don't need to search for them.
5. Teachers will provide remote learning through some live or recorded sessions of key skills.
6. Provide wrap around care for those children of key workers, where no other option is available. After school provision is only open until 4.30pm and normal charges apply. Breakfast club is available as normal.

Whilst we recognise that these are more challenging times, it is useful to remember that learning is continuous and can happen in many wonderful ways. Suggestions would be:

- Go for a walk and enjoy the fresh air as well as nature. During this time you can look for signs of spring as it develops, take photos or draw flowers and trees. This can then be used for observational drawing, sketching, identification, labelling etc. The children will love this and this meets science, art, health and well-being objectives
- Cooking, gardening, singing, playing board games and watching documentaries are also useful ways to engage the children in purposeful activities which promote conversations, questions and discussions. This in turn can lead to an opportunity to record in some way – written, PowerPoints and video – the child's learning journey.

Other useful online resources available are:

- Twinkl
- Times Table Rock stars
- Letterjoins
- Code.org.
- Oxfordowl.com
- Phonics play.co.uk
- Mental maths document which is on the website.

We will update you with more useful links on a regular basis and these will be found on the course page of the appropriate learning platform.

In the meantime, we would ask that you keep doing the basics brilliantly e.g. reading regularly with your child, encouraging them to spell, challenging them on number bonds and/or times tables, following the home learning weekly overview/ timetable and most of all, sending us regular examples of their learning which we can then give feedback on and celebrate in our newsletters.

Finally, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to everybody in the Flitwick Lower community for the support, responsibility you have shown and the kind words offered to the staff.

We wish everybody well and look forward to when we can return to school.



Yours sincerely

Mrs Joanna New
Head Teacher

Mr David Blair
Chair of Governors

