



# Alsager Highfields Community Primary School

Mighty oaks from small acorns grow

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**Headteacher: Mr P Whiston**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April

## Summer Term Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families safe and well.

Normally, I would use my first newsletter of the summer term to welcome everyone back after the Easter holidays and outline the events we had planned for both children and parents for the term ahead. However, we live in changing times and following confirmation from the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson MP schools will not be returning anytime soon. Rest assured, when it is safe to do so, we will be reopening our doors to welcome our children back. The speculation in the media is unhelpful and I would ask that you read with caution of any potential dates of schools returning.

Despite all we have faced and continue to face I do hope that you were able to rest over the Easter period at some point and enjoy being with your family.

There are a number of key messages in this newsletter and I ask that you read all information that is pertinent to your child/ren.

### Home Learning

This week, the teaching staff have begun to set home learning activities again following the Easter break. As before, all activities can be found on the class home learning pages of the school website. These will be uploaded for 9am on a Monday morning and be replaced the following week and will continue whilst the school is not open for the majority of children.

There are a range of curriculum areas covered with an emphasis on consolidating current learning. In addition to these daily activities the BBC has been commissioned to offer a learning platform directly to parents. Further information can be found here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

### Communication

The home learning page also has a direct e-mail address where children can send photographs, videos and some of their favourite pieces of work. These can be from a variety of areas not just home learning tasks set by school. We hope to continue to fill the school website with lots of images of children learning and enjoying their time at home. We hope the children have enjoyed receiving their phone calls from the class teachers over the last few weeks as I know the teaching staff have enjoyed making them and hearing the children's voices.

As many of you will be juggling home working, alongside home learning for children, I would like to reiterate that there is no expectation that **all** work is completed. We have tried to be realistic in what can be achieved but we appreciate every family circumstance is different and we do not want to create additional stress in what is already a challenging time for many. **Please do what is right for your family.** We do ask however that you maintain your child's reading and for all but the very youngest children, this is done on a daily basis.

In addition, there are a number of links on the school website offering advice and support from a range of organisations <http://www.alsagerhighfields.com/page/support-for-parents-whilst-home-learning/65886>

### **Free School Meal Vouchers**

Following a difficult implementation period, the government have finally issued vouchers to our eligible families. These vouchers are being provided for families to buy food from the supermarket to replace the free school meals usually accessed in school. This is not the universal free school meal offer for reception, Year 1 and 2. This is for income related free school meals.

If your circumstances have changed due to the Covid19 situation it may be worth clicking the link below to see whether you may now be entitled to these free school meal vouchers. When you click the link or call the number you will answer a few questions and they will inform you immediately whether or not you are entitled.

[https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free\\_school\\_meals.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free_school_meals.aspx)

### **Key Worker Childcare Places**

The government have asked all schools to be responsive to the need of critical workers and should parents/carers suddenly be required to work we are asked to provide a childcare place. A place can be requested by e-mailing Mr Whiston on [head@alsagerhighfields.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@alsagerhighfields.cheshire.sch.uk) or calling the school office. *Please note that the phone log is checked once in the morning and again once in the afternoon due to having a minimum number of staff on site as directed by the Department for Education (DFE).* A place will be confirmed either by e-mail or a voice call.

Please note: Any new children being considered for a place will need to demonstrate how they meet the criteria previously published.

### **Online Safety**

With children spending significantly more time on the internet and using a range of educational apps as a learning resource the government have updated their online safety information for parents.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers-whose-children-are-using-social-media>

The following link has resources for children in aged related categories <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

### **Secondary School Transition**

I would also like to confirm that I have had assurances from all local high schools to confirm that they are planning for Year 6 transition activities. The respective high schools will be sending correspondence directly to families.

Finally, I would like to send our heartfelt thanks for the support you have shown the school over these recent weeks. From all of our team stay safe and be kind to each other

Kind regards

Carl Leech

Executive Headteacher