

Eastlea update - 24/4/20

Dear Parents/Carers,

The end of the 5th week of school 'closure' and time is moving slowly on! This week we saw the continuation of our provision for pupils of vulnerable families and those of critical/key workers and I know from feedback received that this support is greatly appreciated by families – thank you for the cards and gifts from various sources this week, the staff are very grateful for your kindness.

Support for children/families

The NSPCC has created a number of resources to support parents and carers during this difficult time with advice on how to talk to a child worried about coronavirus, lockdown and separated parents, how to cope with tantrums and other difficult behaviour etc. The advice can be found on the NSPCC website using this link: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

School work at home

We realise that getting back into 'school work' routines after the Easter 'holiday' fortnight has been tricky in some cases, but we have been pleased to see the work which has been shared with staff via Seesaw and Tapestry. A few people have also been in touch to explain difficulties they have been experiencing with online work – and in some instances paper based work resources have been provided for those who are struggling. The communication via Seesaw/Tapestry is vital in our aim to 'keep in touch' with everyone so thank you to everyone who is posting pictures or sending messages of what they have been doing.

The work on the **BBC Bitesize** website <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> which started last Monday has also proved popular and can be accessed via the red button on TV or the iPlayer.

Banner and scarecrows

The children in school this week have been busy! On Wednesday they focused on making a colourful 'stay at home' rainbow banner for the gate which has attracted several positive comments. Yesterday the Year 6 children in school made a scarecrow which KS2 pupils put up by the school sign this morning and we know that other Year 6 children and families are also focused on designing/making a scarecrow to display in their gardens. We are looking forward to seeing pictures of them all!

Keeping active

We have had notification this week that many of the sporting festivals which would have been on offer for the summer term have been cancelled, which is a shame. This includes the Northumberland School Games event scheduled for later in June. The organisers are still putting on a programme to encourage our children and young people to remain active during this difficult period and we have been asked to signpost you to their online information at: <https://www.moreactiveforlife.co.uk/active-children>

Vouchers for families entitled to Free School meals

I'm pleased to say that the difficulties with the voucher allocation system seem to be easing and most families are now able to redeem their vouchers from Edenred successfully. If you are still having difficulties please contact me in school. We have been told that ALDI has now joined the scheme, so it is my understanding that from now you can select to have Aldi as your chosen supermarket which may be useful.

Competition time

The winners of our Easter egg design competition (children and parents!) were delighted with their prizes which were delivered on Tuesday. Following that we have launched our next competition. **You have until 29th April to submit your design for a 100th birthday card for Captain Tom via Seesaw, Tapestry or Facebook.** Some of the cards received so far have been great and we are looking forward to seeing the others when they are submitted.

Stay at home, take care and stay safe and well!

Yours sincerely, Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

