



Our school value this half term is: "Justice"

'Learn to do right.

Seek justice.'

Isiah 1.17

Notices

Easter Break - Friday 3rd April-Monday 20th April

As we approach the timetabled **Easter Break**, it will be a very different end to the spring term than we normally have. The last two weeks of the spring term have seen the majority of children receive their learning at home and many of our usual planned events to celebrate Easter have not been able to happen; this has been a unique experience for everyone. However, as I've said each week during this situation, I am so thankful for our wonderful community who continue to work hard together to ensure the best for everyone. I would like to sincerely thank all of our staff, families and in particular the children for everything being done in these challenging circumstances.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all you a very happy Easter on behalf of everyone at Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School and hope you all manage to have some family time together and stay safe and well!

Mr D Kennedy
Headteacher

Concerns

Please email in any concerns about issues to our school e.mail as this continues to be monitored daily, including over the Easter period. busar@aughtonchristchurch.lancs.sch.uk.

Home Learning Finishes for the Easter break

Home learning **will be finishing on Friday 3rd April** for the planned Easter break. Until this date, teachers are continuing to prepare work daily for your children and send this on to the designated email address that you have provided. **If the government continues its school closure policy, we will be liaising with you towards the end of the Easter break** and home learning packs will resume during designated term time.

As a guide, I would like to remind everyone that children should be spending no longer than normal lesson time on their tasks and **not be worrying** if they do not complete them all. Everyone at school would like to reassure all our families not to become worried or anxious about work at home.

We all understand that this is a new situation that is very different to normal school. Please **DO NOT worry** if the children are not completing everything set and **DO contact school** with any concerns.

In addition, **on page three** of this newsletter there is a list of useful websites we have put together which may be helpful for supporting your child with their learning from home. You may also find these useful to continue structure during **days over the Easter holiday** should you wish. Maintaining a structure with some goals in the day will really help, even in the holidays when many of the usual planned activities can longer take place.

We understand some children may have finished workbooks. To support social distancing guidance and unnecessary travel, we are asking families to provide additional workbooks or paper for their children. If you really do have a problem sourcing this, please let us know.

School Support during Closure

I would like to remind everyone that our school has developed different ways of working with all of our families and crucially the children during this time;

1. The main aspect of this work was setting up our **e-mailing system** to ensure we provided the children with work each day to **continue their learning** and keep in touch with everyone. This is now up and running and working well for all classes ensuring all children are staying in touch with their teachers. Whilst this will stop for the planned Easter break it will operate in term time when required.
2. We also have our **school open for Key workers** and continue to **be available for all families** should you need to contact us.
3. On Friday we let you know about a **new part of our website** to reflect all the wonderful things everyone is doing at home and allow our whole school community to share these experiences; **#we're all in this together - our school is more than a building is now live**. This can be viewed in the **parents** section of the website.
4. We are also providing **more regular updates** than just our weekly newsletter as things change and as we hope to keep everyone as up to date as possible with school life.
5. I have written an **open letter to all the children** which I have sent to them via their class emails and have published online in the newsletter section.
6. Yesterday we also launched **another new initiative, 'Born To Move'** which everyone should now have a log on for. **If you have any questions about any of these initiatives and strategies to support you please do not hesitate to send an email into school.**



Children of Key workers over Easter

In line with Government guidance, we are currently arranging **emergency** care for children of key workers over the Easter period (Monday 6th April - Friday 17th April). We are organising for this care to be held in our school with our staff between the hours of **8:45am and 3:30pm**. This care will not be organised in lessons as a normal school day but be activity based. I also understand many people may already have holidays booked from work and have arrangements in place already so will not require this facility. I'd like to encourage everyone that if this is the case to keep those arrangements in place if they are still viable. This will support school and is also in line with government guidance **'when possible children should remain at home as this is the safest place for them.'**

However, if you feel you will need some emergency care for your child, please email school at **busar@aughtonchrstchurch.lancs.sch.uk** with the following information.

1. **Please give the name(s) of your child(ren).**
2. **Please state the days over the two weeks that you will require care. We will need to know which days exactly you require emergency care as this will impact upon the arrangements that we need to put in place and allow us to ensure the safety of staff and children.**

It will be important to have this information by **Friday 10 am at the latest**. I will then contact you personally to confirm these arrangements. If you have any concerns or do not hear about care we have organised and if you feel this applies to you, please email or call school and I will discuss concerns with you.

Lunches for relevant children should be sent in each with them as a packed lunch.

Over the Easter holidays the school email will continue to be monitored as we understand your situation may change and you may need some care that you haven't yet planned for if work patterns change. You will be able to contact school and I then contact you to discuss.

Please remember we will be here to discuss any concerns you have.

***Mr D Kennedy
Headteacher***

Online Safety and Parent Information and support

In February we held a huge **initiative** about online safety with everyone in school. We'd like to remind all parents of the **importance** of this during this period of home school when *children might be spending more time than usual online* and would ask you to visit the online safety part of our website. Please take time to discuss this issue with your children and consider home practices when children are online. Please click on the link below.

<https://www.aughtonchristchurch.lancs.sch.uk/page/online-safety/49955>

In addition to our own website the Government is also recommending the following links.

[Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)

[Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)

[Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)

[LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)

[Net-aware](#) (support for parents and careers from the NSPCC)

Further guidance and support for parents on many issues can also be accessed in the following Government link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of->

Free School Meals

We have been contacting relevant families but if your child is receiving free school meals and you would like some further information about provision or support, please email: **bursar@aughtonchristchurch.lancs.sch.uk**.

Please note this *does not include* universal free school meals for children in EYFS and KS1. If you are unsure, please send school an email and we can contact you to discuss.



Supporting home learning

Websites and ideas to help parents with home learning:

1. www.teachyourchildtoread.co.uk to help your child with reading.
2. Everyone knows that exercise improves physical health. But perhaps what is less known is the impact it can have on our mental health - this is especially true for children.
Joe wicks YouTube
3. www.jr.brainpop.com
Focused activities such as puzzles and building Lego constructions can help keep children occupied while arts and crafts help them stay creative.
4. Consider setting up playdates via **Skype or Zoom** can help while in self-isolation. Be mindful of safeguarding procedures.
5. **The National Literacy Trust** also launched an online zone for parents looking for ideas and activities whilst their children are home due to school closures. It includes reading and writing activities, book lists, videos, competitions and reading challenges.
6. **The BBC** announced it would ramp up its educational programmes to help parents staying home with children.

Ten helpful websites resources for children :

1) **123 Homeschool for ME**

Free printable worksheets and educational activities to help making learning fun. Resources arranged by grade or subject.
Website: <https://bit.ly/2xcpnJc>

2) **2Simple**

Purple Mash is a website designed for children aged 3-11. It contains many creative tools ie: coding, animation, publishing, art and also applications for maths, spelling and grammar.
Website: <https://bit.ly/2U3BIZg>

3) **BBC Bitesize**

Bitesize is the BBC's free online study support resource for school-age students in the United Kingdom. It is designed to aid students in both schoolwork and, for older students, exams.
Website: <https://bbc.in/2UIDPqc>

4) **5-a-day**

Lots of exercise activities for movement breaks.
Website: <https://bit.ly/2Qv7yMs>

5) **ABDO**

ABDO's entire eBook collection is now available to students to access at home for free.
Website: <https://bit.ly/2wrid3H>

6) **ActivityVillage**

Activity Village provides thousands of colouring pages, crafts, puzzles, worksheets and more, for parents and teachers.
Website: <https://bit.ly/2J8tHf7>

7) **All Kids Network**

We offer FREE educational resources, worksheets, writing prompts, themed colouring pages, craft and snack ideas for parents, teachers and caregivers.
Website: <https://bit.ly/2U7ctVU>

8) **Artrageous with Nate**

Videos about artists and art projects to create.
Website: <https://bit.ly/2vBaobi>

9) **Bamboo Learning**

Bamboo Learning offers FREE voice-based applications (Alexa skills) that cover a range of academic subjects, including math, ELA/listening comprehension, and social studies.
Website: <https://bit.ly/33xffad>

10) **Black Box Education**

Digital and interactive resources for drama, dance and theatre.
Website: <https://bit.ly/3diSjtt>
<https://www.teachwire.net/news/coronavirus-how-are-uk-schools-dealing-with-this-health-crisis#pri>
<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>

Top Tip:

Trying to mimic a classroom environment at home just isn't going to work, but setting out roughly what you plan to do each day will really help.

We are encouraging all our families to continue to keep in touch with each other and share ideas between yourselves.