

# The Downs Primary School and Nursery

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## The Downs School News – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and managing to stay safe. It was a strange Easter break and it feels good to be back in contact with you all again. Thank you for responding to teacher emails again this week. The longer this goes on the harder this is, and we cannot wait to get back to normal. But, to confirm, despite anything we hear on social media, we do not know when schools will resume. We will want to ensure that it is safe to return as being safe is of paramount concern for all of us. When we know anything for certain we will let you know. We are hearing sad news daily. If you have been directly affected from losing a loved one, please let us know and we will endeavour to direct you to some support.

Following the parent survey that we sent out before Easter we changed the format for home learning. You should have also received a workbook and pencil in the post. Please know that we do recognise that you are not teachers and you know your child best. However, we do hope that you like the new format of giving you and your child a focus/theme. The work will be emailed to you each week and is posted on our website but if you are not able to access the work for any reason please make sure you let us know through email. Many of you may also find the daily timetable helpful. This is only a suggestion as I am sure many of you already have a system in place that works for you and your family.

We have also attached a whole table of activity ideas with 99 things you could do – the 100<sup>th</sup> box is asking you to come up with other ideas. House points will be awarded for the most creative ideas to add to this table – please send your ideas by email to your class teacher. You could also send pictures of any of the activities you have chosen to try. We love seeing what you have all been up to.

Over Easter we updated our website with various learning ideas, a whole list of recommended website links and also a book illustrated by Alex Scheffler of how to talk to your child about Covid-19 - <https://nosycrow.com/blog/released-today-free-information-book-explaining-coronavirus-children-illustrated-gruffalo-illustrator-axel-scheffler/>

Please use the website regularly as we are constantly adding resources and news updates. Please let us know if there is anything specific that you need to help you at home. The websites listed on there are highly recommended, for example; from 20<sup>th</sup> April the BBC are supporting parents with home learning. More information on this can be found

at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-52149409>

Another very good website which comes recommended by the DfE is the sector-led Oak

National Academy online classroom and resource hub. The Academy offers 180 video lessons each week for schools to use, across a broad range of subjects. The lessons cover children in Reception through to Year 10 and are free to use. The Oak National Academy can be accessed here: <https://www.thenational.academy/>

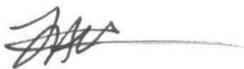
Yesterday we posted a news article on our website about cycling resources, offers and services being provided by Sustrans for parents and Key Workers. As many more of us are using our bicycles to get some exercise each day, you might find this information very useful - <https://www.downs.essex.sch.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=1031>

Rev. Jokey Poyntz, who is Team Vicar at St Mary's, Little Parndon, and Deanery Missioner and Youth Champion has sent us the link for their Harlow Boxes of Hope! Please go to [www.rbf.org.uk/harlow](http://www.rbf.org.uk/harlow) or see Facebook, @harlowmakelunch for details. You can buy a box for yourself or for someone else and key workers can receive a box for free. Buy, gift or receive your Harlow Box of Hope today!

On our website news page today, we have posted a weekend challenge for you all – London Underground Quiz. How many can you get? Remember to send photos of your child's work and what they are doing to their teacher and we can add them to Twitter to share with everyone. Other children love seeing what their friends are doing and the children will also earn house points if you share their work. Also, if you haven't already seen it, go to our twitter page @TheDownsPrimary to see a member of staff tell a riddle – can you work out the answer? Have you seen our video yet? We will also be adding a 'Who Am I?' fun activity - Guess who the member of staff is from their photo of when they were much, much younger!

As always stay safe and look after each other.

Kind regards



Ms Jeanette Allen  
Headteacher

*Please note that you use all websites and content at your own risk. Resources made available through the lists are subject to third party terms and conditions and copyright law.*

*Access to resources is in most cases free of charge, but it is your responsibility to check whether you have to pay to view and/or copy specific content contained within the resources.*

*It is your responsibility to monitor your child's use of any of these websites and their suitability for your child.*