



Friday, 3rd April 2020

Dear Children and Parents,

Easter Newsletter, 2020

I hope you are all well and are finding ways to cope with the restrictions that we all have to face at the present time. All of the staff at Tillington Manor Primary School are very much looking forward to the time when we can all be back together in school and the routines we are so used to can restart again.

I know how hard the current situation is for us all when we are so used to going out when we choose to and are now unable to maintain contact with family members and friends who live away from us. Over the last couple of weeks, however, I have been so impressed with the many and varying ways that people in our community have been supporting and helping each other.

Congratulations to the children on their fantastic work so far. An enormous thank you to all parents for the help and support that has been given during the last two weeks as we all get used to doing school work in a completely different way. I have been really impressed with the range of creative activities that parents have been doing with their children on top of the work that has been set by the school. As always, I extend my sincere and grateful thanks to all of the staff at TMPS for their dedicated and hard-working approach and pay tribute to their ability to adapt to the provision of learning in a whole new way in such a small space of time.

Over the two week period of the Easter break (Friday, 3rd April to Sunday, 19th April), staff will not be setting daily tasks for children to do - daily learning tasks and activities will resume on Monday, 20th April. From Monday, 20th April, staff will be available again to respond to your do-jos and messages from 9.00am to 3.30pm and to look at work that has been submitted.

Activity ideas for the Easter holiday

Here are a few ideas for activities to stimulate children's thinking and creativity over the Easter break:

- Easter
 - Decorate a used egg shell - you could turn the egg shells in to different characters.
 - Make an Easter bonnet/hat.
 - Design and make an Easter card for someone.
 - Make a miniature garden for Easter.

- Try to make an origami cross from paper (this is a suggestion from Vicar Elaine as this Sunday is Palm Sunday - she asked me to pass on to you all that she is very much missing coming in to school).
- Find the names of any other religious festivals taking place in April - make up a quiz to test your family.
- Watch a football match/F1 race/recording of another sporting event with the sound turned down - make up the commentary.
- Family history:
 - What is the oldest object in your house? What can you find out about it?
 - How old is it? Where did it come from? What is it used for? What do you think it is worth? (Idea from Antiques Roadshow)
 - Interview a family member and find out the details of when they were born and what they have done in their life so far. Make a timeline to represent the different things in their life.
 - Draw portraits of your family members. Create your own gallery exhibition.
- Find out some interesting facts about the year you were born, e.g. winners of the FA cup or other sporting events, name of the Prime Minister, Most popular songs, inventions etc.
 - What happened 100 years before you were born? Make a poster to show what has changed in this time.
 - If you can, what happened 1000 years before you were born?
- Spring bird watch
 - Which birds come in to your garden? Keep a log - which bird species is the most frequent visitor? Draw a picture of your favourite birds.
- Design and make a puppet (e.g. from an old sock) and make up a show to entertain your family.
- Make up a joke book (I am always looking for jokes to add to my repertoire).
- Invent a new cartoon character
 - Make up a cartoon about the adventures your character gets up to - you might like to include a special message or a moral in your cartoon.
- VE day - plan a meal for your household to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War 2 in Europe (8th May). You might like to think what foods they would have had in a street party in 1945 - don't forget there were rations!

If you can, take some pictures of what you have done and send them via do-jo to your teacher after Easter. In addition to these, Mrs Brian will also send out some ideas.

Free School Meals provision

Did you know, we can provide sandwich bags or a hamper bag of ingredients (to allow you to make sandwiches for your child for a week) for the children who are eligible for benefit-related free school meals? Hamper bags will need to be pre-ordered to allow time for the kitchen staff to get them delivered from their suppliers. Please contact the school office on Monday, 20th April by 9.45am if you would like to place an order for sandwiches or a hamper. Orders for hampers may take a little longer to provide due to delivery restrictions placed on the food suppliers to the kitchen - if there is a delay a sandwich bag can be provided in the meantime. After Easter, we have been told the first delivery of hamper bags will be on Tuesday, 21st April.

Safeguarding of children

1. Given the time available over the Easter holidays for children to access on-line resources, please make sure systems are in place to ensure your child only accesses sites that are safe for children in their age-group. Before the school closure, staff talked to children about:
 - On-line safety - e.g. never giving personal details away or submitting images/information about themselves which could compromise their safety.
 - The importance of communicating with others appropriately in order to avoid instances of cyber bullying, e.g. through text or on-line contact with others.
 - Mrs Turner has produced some additional guidelines for parents about e-safety and these will be forwarded to parents via do-jo as well as being placed on the website.
2. **Reminder** - if you have a concern about the safety or well-being of any child, please ring First Response to report it:

0800 1313 126

3. If you believe a child is in immediate danger please ring the Police straight away.

Should you need any advice about a safeguarding concern over the holiday period, please contact Mr Goodwin/Mrs Brockhurst via e-mail (our e-mails will be monitored on a regular basis):

headteacher@tillingtonmanor.staffs.sch.uk

kbrockhurst@tillingtonmanor.staffs.sch.uk

Food Banks

The following organisations in our area are available to provide some items of tinned/packet food if anyone requires a little extra help at this very difficult time:

- House of Bread - 01785 243492 - Browning Street, Stafford
- Elim Hope Foodbank - 01785 242373 - St Patrick's Street, Stafford - e-mail: admin@elimhope.church or contact via Facebook

I wish you all a happy Easter. Stay safe.

Best wishes,

I.R. Goodwin

I R Goodwin
Headteacher

