

24th April, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

A virtual warm welcome back to all our families in these extraordinary times. I hope everyone enjoyed a stress free two weeks with your children without the added pressures of home-schooling. As a parent myself, I understand how difficult it is juggling work and children at home and I am not ashamed to say that despite all my years of arguing with my kids about their overuse of the Xbox, it has now become a bit of a god-send in my house!

Home Learning

For the foreseeable future we are back to remote learning and I hope you are all back into the swing of using our website as a tool for accessing all the work your child needs. Your child can access their learning through the school website using the password TPPS2020. There you will find a timetable to help your child structure their learning and all the links they need. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's teacher if you need further support. The best way to do this is by email: covid-19@tickfordpark.milton-keynes.sch.uk Please put your child's name and year group in the subject line.

BBC Bitesize Daily

The BBC have launched their new learning package - BBC Bitesize 'Schools off, Learning's not!' - known as Bitesize Daily. This is an additional resource which is really easy to navigate - just click on the year group you require and children can access short videos, activities and games for English, Maths and a range of curriculum topics.

Well-being

With the best will in the world, we are all trying to keep life as normal as can be for our children but I am sure that despite all our reassurances and cajoling, home life can be a bit of a pressure cooker when we are all cooped up together (again, I know this from my own experience!) The NSPCC has created a number of resources to support parents and carers during this difficult time. Topics include:

- Talking to a child worried about coronavirus
- Parents working from home
- Children staying home alone
- Lockdown and separated parents
- How to cope with tantrums and other difficult behaviour

The advice can be found on the NSPCC website here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

The Multi Agency Support Hub has also put together some really useful information on services that can help you in an emergency as we move through these uncertain times. The information pack includes information for support re food banks, domestic violence, mental health, educational online activities and lots more.

The information pack can be found at: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/assets/attach/65084/COLLATED-Covid-19-Support-and-Information-for-Families-April-2020.pdf>

Released this week: a free information book explaining the coronavirus to children, illustrated by Gruffalo illustrator Axel Scheffler | Nosy Crow. It can be read online or downloaded. <https://nosycrow.com/blog/released-today-free-information-book-explaining-coronavirus-children-illustrated-gruffalo-illustrator-axel-scheffler>

Donations

If anyone has any plants, flowers or compost they would like to donate to the school it would be much appreciated. The children of keyworkers who are attending school at the minute would love to plant them to make the school lovely and bright for when everyone returns.

TT ROCKSTARS

Wow, we were so excited to be the Newport Pagnell champions in our TT Rockstars over the Easter break. Well done everybody!



THE BIG MILTON KEYNES BATTLE - PART 1

Milton Keynes Battle Group

We now face a bigger challenge... we have been invited to compete in the 4 day Big Milton Keynes Battle! There are almost 20 schools battling against each other. If your child has a TT Rockstars account, please encourage them to participate in this battle any time between 8:30am-7:30pm. It begins **Monday 27th April** and finishes on the evening of **Thursday 30th April**. Your child's teacher would have set a suitable personalised times table schedule for them to complete. This is a brilliant opportunity to secure those times tables facts and have fun whilst improving their fluency and rapid recall. Good luck everybody, we can do this!

Twitter

It's so lovely to see you sharing pictures of your children and their learning on Twitter. Please remember not to include your child's name with their photo as in accordance with our online safety policy, we cannot retweet these posts. Thank you.

And finally, I know that all the staff have been missing your lovely children. They have devised a video to say hello to everyone – if you haven't yet seen it, you can watch it by clicking on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hj8jV0vO9co>

Have a lovely weekend - let's hope this sunshine lasts!

Best wishes,

Claire

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