



Tickford Park Primary School

Avon Close
Newport Pagnell
Buckinghamshire
MK16 9DH

3rd April, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We now have reached the end of the Spring Term where school and home life has changed for the majority of us. The news is becoming more worrying and it's in these times that we keep our loved ones close. We are concerned about the direct impact coronavirus maybe having on our families. It's an unsettling thought but if this applies to you or your family and you would like us to support your child through any difficult times, we have set up a dedicated email address where you can contact us and one of us will be in touch. Please use this address which will be monitored daily - even through the Easter holidays: support19@tickfordpark.co.uk

We are so proud of our pupils for all the effort they are putting into home learning. Some parents have however, expressed concerns that they are finding home learning difficult; many of you have only one computer in the family and are having to share, whilst also trying to work from home. Others are finding it difficult to motivate children. We are looking at ways to help with this, for example, providing more activities that can be completed in children's homework books. If you think of any other ways in which we can support you then please contact the school office and we will do our best to help. Please note, that teachers will not be sending emails after 5pm but will endeavour to get back to you at the earliest opportunity.

These are extraordinary times, and you have to prioritise your well-being and that of your children. Remember, you are your child's parents not teachers, so try not to put too much pressure on yourself. We understand how difficult life is at the moment and we encourage you to spend these next 2 weeks over Easter as a family, learning to be together and simply enjoying time together.

Thank you to all our key workers who are working hard to keep everyone safe. Those children whose parents are key workers and children of other identified groups may now use the booking system for school places after Easter.

Home learning over Easter

We are not setting any formal learning over Easter but we understand that not being allowed out is going to present some challenges for our children and its helpful for them to have a daily focus. We have put together a list of Easter Challenges (one each day) that is being sent with this email which you might like to complete with your child. It would be great if the children could post their successes on Twitter so we can all celebrate their achievements.

Online safety

Please be cautious about your child's use of other sites. The ones set by teachers are used by staff and children at school frequently. There are other sites available that are offering free services and resources, however not all sites can be trusted. Where children use sites such as YouTube at school, we have heavy filters protecting our children from unsuitable material whereas at home, these filters may not apply. Please be vigilant about what your child is accessing. Please remind your child about their E-Safety lessons in school and encourage them to visit secure sites that you have vetted yourself.

We are really enjoying seeing your child's achievements on Twitter but please can we also remind you not to add children's names if you are tweeting pictures. As part of our commitment to online safety, we cannot retweet all the great things your children are doing at home if your child is named.

Supporting our SEN children

The Local Authority has provided some advice for parents and activities for children on their Local Offer page. Or you can access it by clicking this link: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/send-local-offer/send-local-offer-parents/resources-fun-ideas-and-activities>

Playgrounds - A message from Milton Keynes Council

It has come to our attention that there are a number of parents across Milton Keynes who are still taking their children to play parks and playgrounds. Clearly, this is not safe for them or others. We would be very grateful if you could support us by sending the following message to all parents via text or email.

MK's playgrounds are CLOSED to limit the spread of coronavirus. Please do your part and stay away. Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (if you can't work at home). #StayHomeSaveLives

Free School Meals

We have now registered for the governments free school meal voucher scheme. Vouchers will be sent to all families on the free school meal list via email. Your first voucher will be delivered on Monday the 20th April and each week we will send £15 per child. If your circumstances have changed and you believe your child is eligible for a free school meal, please complete the online application at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>. We cannot provide vouchers to new applicants until we have received confirmation of your successful application.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office at office@tickfordpark.milton-keynes.sch.uk

No-one has ever experienced an end of term like this one before. We sincerely hope that each and every one of you is doing okay. School is here to support you where we can and as mentioned previously, please get in touch if you think we can help in any way.

Have a good rest over Easter and we will see you virtually on April 20th.

Best wishes

Claire, Taryn and Ian

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www.tickfordpark.org.uk