

Dear Mums and Dads,

As you know school is closing today. We do not yet know when school will be open again. I know that this is a very disruptive and worrying time for many of you, our thoughts are with our whole community and we hope that you are all well.

You will all have received a pack for your child's home learning. You will know that your child has work for the first two weeks and then we will upload work on a regular basis. Please refer to the pupil packs for all details. **It is important to note that the pupils' Easter holiday starts today.** Therefore we would hope that children would make a start on their packs on Monday 6th April. We will then begin to upload additional work for the pupils, in the following weeks.

Staff however will continue to work to fulfil a range of duties. Please be aware that many of our staff have agreed to volunteer in the community, and will be working to provide essential services across the community, and therefore will not always be working for our school.

Our main line of communication from now on will be via our twitter feed. We will send little reminders when we upload new work, and we will also be relaying any essential communications from the Local Authority.

We have also set up three email addresses, should you need them Please note that these addresses are for **emergency** use only.

These are for Foundation Phase, Year 3/4 , and Year 5/6.

[riscapprimaryfoundationphase@riscapprimary.org](mailto:riscapprimaryfoundationphase@riscapprimary.org)

riscapprimary3and4[teachers@riscapprimary.org](mailto:teachers@riscapprimary.org)

riscapprimary5and [6teacher@riscapprimary.org](mailto:6teacher@riscapprimary.org)

Please be aware, we are unable to enter into one to one communication for pupil learning, but we will always try to help, should you have a significant issue. We have sent a range of tasks out to pupils which should be easily accessible to all. As a plea, I would ask that if pupils find any tasks too difficult, for instance the maths online learning, please just ask your child to select another task. Should you need to contact us in case of an urgent query, we will always try to get back to you as soon as possible, but please understand that staff may not be readily available as they may be volunteering.

I know that the Local Authority is working very hard to ensure that the wellbeing of every child is protected. They are organising free school meals for identified pupils. If your child qualifies for free school meals, please check our Twitter feed for details of how to register if you have not already done so. The Local Authority has also pledged to make contact with any parents who may need additional support during these difficult times. Please don't be offended if you have a phone call from our Educational Welfare Officer. She is merely 'touching base' with you to check on the wellbeing of you and your family, and assessing whether we can support you and your family.

Finally, please can I ask you to try and stay safe for the foreseeable future. Please follow the Government guidelines to the letter. If you are in one of the vulnerable groups please take extra care, and self-isolate. If you know that someone is self-isolating please pick up the phone and ensure that they have someone to chat to every day. It is so important that we look after everyone in our community, and that no one is forgotten. Everyone else please follow the guidance on social distancing. We have to work together now to reduce the strain that this is going to put on the NHS, and most important, we need to work together to keep our community safe.

I would like to finish this letter by focusing on our children. This must be a very challenging time for all of our children, and I know that as parents and carers, you will do all that you can to shield your children from what is going on in the world at the moment. The work that we have set for children is to ensure that they continue to learn and be engaged in the learning process. Much of the work can be completed independently and will help to keep them occupied, which I hope you will find a help. It is not intended to be something which adds stress to your daily lives. We know that some of you will be in Key Worker roles and may not have time to support your child to complete their packs. So if you or your child is having a challenging day I would recommend some alternatives: watch a film, put some dance music on or play a family board game. Remember the work is to support you and not to make things more difficult for you.

We look forward to seeing you as soon as we are open again, please take care of yourselves and your families.

Many thanks

Jayne Arthur