

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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*A Church of England School
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Update Letter 26th March, 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Well, here we are almost at the end of the first week of school closure! I hope that this letter finds you all well and coping in this most bizarre of times. Not only have we had school closure to contend with, but, since Monday, we have all been on national 'lockdown'! Thank you to everyone who has heeded the Government plea to stay at home and to everyone who has kept their children at home where you can too. It really is imperative to 'do the right thing' and to avoid contact where possible so we can stop the spread of this virus.

For the majority of families, you will have settled into some new routines and we have had some lovely feedback about the work which has been organised and shared via 'Show My Homework'. We have also delivered packs out to families without direct internet access and we hope that you all have plenty to do! As I mentioned last week, this is simply a support package for you – please feel free to do as much or as little as you can cope with. Each family will be different and you will create your own routines. Many of you are doing the daily Joe Wicks PE workout, Year 5 have been enjoying their TT Rockstars challenges (and we have now signed up Year 6 to TT Rockstars too!). I'm enjoying being part of Gareth Malone's virtual choir which rehearses each day at 5.30pm (have a look at his YouTube channel – he does some great warm-ups – just make sure you have plenty of space!). Mr Crapnell has put together a quiz (which is a cunningly constructed questionnaire) to help us ascertain what technology you have access to at home, so watch out for that one ... we'll try to develop what we do as time goes on. Please contact us if there is anything else we can do to help.

In school, we have been looking after a delightful group of students from key-worker families and they have been well looked after by our amazing staff.

We will continue our educational provision and support next week too ... and then we'll take a 2-week break for Easter. It's hard to think that Easter is almost with us ... we seem to have entered a rather scary 'twilight zone' where the normal calendar and the year is 'on hold'. Usually at this time of the year we are in the midst of preparing for our annual Passion Play and continuing with our Lenten challenges! I think more than ever this year, the focus of Lent is definitely on 'Faith in Action' and helping out our friends and neighbours. Do take time to catch up with family and friends (and use all the technology out there to actually speak and see people – use FaceTime, WhatsApp, Zoom, GoogleTeams to video-conference – it really does lift your spirits). Be aware of any neighbours you have whose car might have not moved for several days – drop a note through the door to check they're OK ... and above all, be kind. We will recommence our online support and in-school support during the week commencing 20th April. There are some emergency materials on the school website (in the Student section – Emergency/Self-isolation packs).

Take care of each other, please contact us if you need anything (no question is a silly question) ... and stay well.

With all best wishes

MG Simpson
Mr Simpson



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mrs H Donnellan
Acting Assistant Headteacher / DSL: Mrs J Davies

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