

Covid-19 update

Dear Parent,

Thank you for your patience and understanding over the last few days. The logistical planning associated with keeping some of our schools open for certain pupils, preparing home learning packs for all children and managing high levels of staff absence has been challenging within a very short timescale.

However, our thoughts now turn to you during this difficult time. We are aware that many families will face financial challenges as measures introduced by the government begin to impact.

We understand that some families who are NOT in receipt of Free School Meals may now, or in the near future, experience financial difficulties. We would like to help. We are putting in place a '**hardship**' fund for those in most need.

For a confidential conversation, please contact the Trust's Safeguarding Lead, Sarah Partridge, who will discuss how we can support your family and/or signpost you to other possible resources: (07523402588)

Safeguarding and other urgent concerns:

There may be a need for parents/carers, pupils or staff members to urgently contact us with safeguarding issues or other pressing matters during the closure. Please contact Mrs Sarah Partridge (sarah.partridge@stouracademytrust.org.uk) or by telephoning the hub school number as indicated below:

Swale: Richmond Academy: 01795 662891

Canterbury Hub: Sturry CE Primary School: 01227 710477

Ashford Hub: Finberry Primary School: 01233 622686

Education – what happens next

We are committed to supporting you as much as possible while your children are at home and are already underway with developing ideas and resources to enable us to do so.

The news to close schools was only released on Wednesday evening so we have provided some interim work whilst we develop a more comprehensive approach. This will commence after the Easter break.

You should have received some learning resources and exercise books today that your child's teacher has put together (if your child was absent today, the packs can be collected from your child's school on Monday).

You will also find a link on the school website to a variety of home learning resources and websites that we know will be useful. Please utilise this resource and ask your children to use the internet to find out more about their current topic.

On Tuesday 14th April, following the Easter break, we will be releasing a daily online Mathematics and English lesson for each year group. Our teachers will be recording a short teacher input for your children to watch and there will be a link for the activity that accompanies each video. The daily 'Home Learning Lessons' will be accessed via your school website and the link will be found on the Home Learning page.

In addition to this, we will be releasing a science and topic teacher input each week and an accompanying activity to be completed at home.

We have also added a link to our Home Learning Resources section of the website called 'PE with Jo' where a daily PE lesson will be streamed at 9am. We encourage all children to take part.

We will also be supporting our year 5 pupils by purchasing individual licences for software (BOFA) to support the Kent Test <http://www.bofa11plus.com>

This program is designed to help children practise the skills needed in the Kent Test, under timed conditions, concentrating on English, Maths, Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning whilst having fun! You will be sent your child's login details via Weduc on Monday.

If you have any issues or questions regarding login details for this or any other online learning support, please contact ITsupport@stouracademytrust.org.uk

Although Year 6 children will not be sitting their SATs this May, we have purchased CPG test packs for English and Mathematics for every child for them to work on at home. This will be good exam practice and prepare them for secondary school whilst applying the many new skills they have acquired throughout year 6.

We aim to evolve and improve our home learning support over the coming weeks and will be in touch with any new developments as they become available.

We are all aware that these are rapidly changing times and the emphasis remains on keeping everyone safe and preventing the spread of the Covid-19 virus. All staff, wherever possible, will continue to work throughout the current crisis to provide the best possible service we can in the circumstances.

Yours sincerely,



Simon O'Keefe.

CEO

The Stour Academy Trust