

North Elmham CEVA Primary School  
Stibbard All Saints CEVA Primary School  
*Flourish Federation*



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Dear Parents/Carers

**Message from the headteacher**

I hope you all had a restful Easter break and welcome to our very first remote summer term! Never has the phrase, 'I hope you are well' had such poignance, in the unprecedented times we find ourselves in. I do genuinely hope you and your loved ones are safe and well and are managing? We've all had to adapt to new ways of working, so I wanted to take the opportunity to say what an amazing job you're doing supporting your child's wellbeing and learning during this time. We all think of you all when clapping on Thursdays at 8pm. It's definitely been a strange and challenging time for us all, so it's ok if you and your child feel wobbly and worried at the moment. As we figure this all out together, remember, if you have any concerns please let us know by emailing office@northelmham.norfolk.sch.uk

I wanted to contact you as 'normal' to send my best wishes and to share some activities that may provide a distraction during this time. At this time of the year we staff are normally focussed on upcoming tests and assessments but as you know these will not take place. During lockdown, the Government has made it clear that school staff are critical workers. Some staff are available to work at school premises, unless they are: shielding, self-isolating, Socially distancing because of increased vulnerability or are unwell. We have staff that fall into these categories and we do have staff working from home too. It's amazing how much paperwork there is with no children in school! We held our first Zoom call meeting yesterday and we will do this weekly. We are using Stibbard as our base school. But just because we're not all in the same building, doesn't mean we can't have some fun together!

You may be aware the Education Secretary announced that vulnerable and disadvantaged young people across the country will receive free laptops and tablets as part of a push to make remote education accessible for pupils staying at home during the coronavirus outbreak. Devices will be ordered for children who receive support **from a social worker and care leavers.** Schools and colleges will be able to keep these laptops and tablets once they have reopened.

**Free-school meals**

Some of you are awaiting news about the food vouchers available to those families in receipt of free school meals. Unfortunately the online system set up by the government has not been able to cope with the high demand placed upon it. We have been in contact with the provider and they have promised to deal with all school enquiries as quickly as they are able, so we hope to be able to provide more information to the relevant families very soon.

**Home-learning**

Norfolk County Council has posted a message on its website stating that schools are facing unprecedented challenges during this coronavirus emergency. It states; "we are speaking with headteachers daily and it is clear that you and your teaching staff are doing your very best in extremely challenging circumstances to produce

home-learning materials, keep schools open for key workers and vulnerable children, and much more. We have asked parents to please be patient and understanding of their local school at this difficult time. We have said the national curriculum has been suspended at this time while schools provide childcare so that key public services can function and for the safety of vulnerable children. Finally, we have also stated that while schools are doing their utmost to provide as much teaching and learning material as possible, it is not expected that they can provide a full timetable of work.”

### **How can my child learn at home?**

As a school we have experimented with different online learning platforms and we have agreed that should you need a structured sequence of learning and support then please use one of the resources below:

- **BBC Bitesize website**  
For a manageable amount of daily work (lasting around 3 hours). Select the year group and you get a Maths and English lesson plus a foundation subject lesson each day. Includes an animated video to introduce each lesson and includes online games and worksheets for children to complete.
- **BBC Red Button on the TV**  
Short, engaging and entertaining lessons, interspersed with fun videos, stories read by familiar faces (TV stars etc) and PE segments.
- **Oak National Academy** Sequenced lessons throughout the week on a variety of different subjects each day, for each year group. Each lesson is run by a qualified teacher who provides a voice-over/video, slides and quizzes to accompany the lesson. You can also download and use worksheets for the lessons. There are approximately 3 or 4 lessons for each day of the week, each lasting between 30-45 minutes.

These resources are designed to support and consolidate prior learning. However, as the school year has not been completed, children may come across new learning and concepts that they have not yet been exposed to in school. If/when this happens, please do let the children have a go but don't worry if they're unable to complete the activity. The last thing we want is for children and parents to feel overwhelmed and anxious in what is already a difficult time for us all.

If you find that you are unable to access these resources, please get in touch with the school office and we will endeavour to provide alternative ideas.

### **Other important notes**

- **No End of Year Reports** will be sent out this term. Our regular parent consultations throughout the year so far mean that you should be up-to-date on your child's progress. Teachers will ensure that children's transition notes are updated and ready for the next teacher.
- **Teachers will be phoning children** over the next couple of weeks for a catch-up.
- We are looking to design and build **WOW book areas/prayer/reflective spaces** in our classrooms and around our schools. We will share a wish list of resources needed for these as you may have just the item lurking in your cupboards that you no longer need.

Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson said schools will remain closed until the scientific advice changes, so we can't say yet when we'll be able to open our schools fully. The shortest route to reopening schools is to observe the Government guidelines respectfully for as long as it takes. At present, social distancing is the only protection we have against the spread of covid-19 but rest assured we'll continue doing our utmost to keep your child's welfare in our mind and our school community connected.

Warm regards,

Ms P Jones and all the team at North Elmham

Executive Headteacher of Flourish Federation