



DILS News

Dunstable Icknield Lower School Newsletter Issue 72

12th June 2020



CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK: School is now partially open only for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and the children of key worker and vulnerable families. Home learning is available for all children in years Nursery – to Year 4.

The latest government advice and information for parents and carers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Growing Children

We have noticed that many of the children have taken a significant growth spurt since mid-March and many have outgrown school shoes. Until the end of the summer term children can wear training shoes if their school shoes no longer fit. Please let your child's teacher know.

Nursery, Reception and Year 1 Children

The children who have returned to school are now settled into their small class 'bubbles'. It has been so lovely to see so many smiling faces around the school again. As the children have settled into a new daily routine and become comfortable with their altered surroundings, we can see the effort they are putting into their learning. Thank you to all our parents and carers who have supported their children at home.

If your child will be returning to school, please contact your child's class teacher **at least 48 hours in advance**. It is necessary for school to prepare individual resources and staffing for every child.

Nursery Applications for September 2020

We are still accepting applications for Nursery for next academic year. If you would like an application, please contact the school office.

Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 Children

Following the government announcement that non-essential shops can open from Monday 15 June, please be aware that only children from key worker families in Years 2, 3 and 4 will be able to come to school. Key workers are defined by the government as working in the following sectors:

- **Health and Social Care**
- **Education and Childcare**
- **Key Public Services (such as running of the justice system, management of the deceased, journalists and religious staff)**
- **Local and National Government**
- **Food and Other Necessary Goods (such as hygienic and veterinary goods)**
- **Public Safety and National Security**
- **Transport**
- **Utilities, communication and financial services**

Unfortunately, due to constraints on space and staffing, we are unable to take children from Years 2, 3 and 4 whose families do not work in these sectors.

If you do work in one of these sectors and wish for your child to attend school, you will need to provide a letter from your employer confirming that you are a key worker before your child comes in to school. You will also need to book the days you wish your child to attend using the online form which is sent round each week to all confirmed key workers. Children of key workers and vulnerable families can still access school and are asked to book in for only the days they will attend. If you book in and your circumstances change, please let us know. Extended day provision can be booked for the children of key workers only and must be booked and paid for 7 days in advance using the usual booking system. Currently extended day is available in the morning and until 4.30pm only.

Short Notice Changes

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Please be aware that due to the current situation staffing and access to school can change at very short notice. Any changes will be communicated to parents and carers via email as soon as possible. If you have changed your email contact details, please inform the school office as soon as possible.

The Love Art and Craft - In March we emailed all our parents to say that we would make up the missed art sessions when we returned to schools, however it is unlikely we will be able to do this any time soon due to social distancing. Instead we are running online Zoom classes and have sent the attached document out to the parents. We hope everyone has received it and will take the opportunity to make up for the missed sessions but if you have had any queries from parents please forward it on. We will not be offering refunds for cancelled sessions and are keen to not leave any sessions outstanding.

Supporting children and young people with worries about COVID-19 Please follow the link below for current information regarding COVID-19. It can be downloaded in foreign languages too:

<https://emergingminds.org.uk/advice-for-parents-carers-supporting-children-young-people-with-worries-about-covid-19/>

FAMILY LOSS DURING SCHOOL CLOSURE

There are many social restrictions in place for our country at the moment and these are impacting in ways which we could not have predicted just a few weeks ago. Some have been positive as we make even greater efforts to stay in touch with family and friends, recognise the number and range of critical workers who keep our country running and cleaner air as there is less pollution. And unfortunately, there are some negatives, postponed weddings, cancelled trips and holidays and the limits to attendance at funerals. We recognise that many of the negative effects of 'lockdown' may have a lasting impact on the children. To enable us to support children who have suffered loss during school closure please get in touch with the school or send an email explaining your family or child's loss to our school email address dunstable@icknieldlower.bedssch.co.uk

There are many types of loss such as the death of an extended family member, a severe illness in the family or loss of a pet. You know your child best. If you think that your child could struggle when they return to school with any type of loss or change, let us know and we will be able to look at ways to support them on their return. Things will not return to 'normal' immediately for the children or the adults when school re-opens, but we will do what we can to prepare children for the new normal.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND ADVICE

Families registered for **Free School Meals** through Central Bedfordshire will receive the Government free school meal food vouchers worth £15 per child on a weekly basis, until schools re-open. If you think your family are entitled to Free School Meals including families of children from Reception to Y4, please follow the link below or contact the Central Beds representatives on **0300 300 8306**.

If your child is younger than Y3 and you are unsure if you are entitled to Free School Meal status, please contact the local authority for more information.

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/53/benefits/4/free_school_meals/3

Parents seeking financial advice - For families who are struggling financially can follow the link below for information and advice:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/26/public_health/737/coronavirus_-_covid-19/8

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information and resources for parents/carers: follow the link below for general advice about COVID-19 from Central Bedfordshire Council:

https://m.box.com/shared_item/https%3A%2F%2Fcentralbedfordshire.box.com%2Fs%2Fhgv13pzwscpukp7eg5zp6lmk7rap2hl4

Polite Reminder – For those children who have been able to see their friends and teachers through **Zoom** meetings, it has been a wonderful experience! For the safety of all our children and families, please do not take photographs of the meetings and share them on the social media. Thank you for your continued support.

HOME LEARNING:

Home learning activities will continue with our home learning packs for those children who are not accessing school.

If you are not able to download or print off the home learning for your child, these can be collected from the school in paper form. The home learning packs provide targeted activities and learning from the class teacher for your child. There are always extra ideas and activities to choose from on our website which are added to regularly.

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The School website is now full of wonderful learning activities and ideas for you to do at home:

- **Activities and learning that you can tune into from home page**

Loads of brand-new things to explore:

<https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/title=Activities+and+learning+that+you+can+tune+into+from+home&pid=84>

- **Come to read and learn with us**

You will find links to videos from our **YouTube** channel and other links to support reading;

<https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=Come+to+read+and+learn+with+us%21&pid=81>

- School **YouTube** channel – videos of children now being shared on Twitter too:

Subscribe to see your DILS staff reading and showing fun learning challenges

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEBbq7KAgMEimG4DoFqOB5A?view_as=subscriber

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llpLcWIFJfU>

- **Isolation** - Fun activities and ideas to help children stay entertained

<https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=Isolation+%2D+Fun+activities+and+ideas+to+do+at+home&pid=83>

- **Our Home Learning Gallery**

You will find pictures of children's home learning. **If you are sending in photos, please be aware that these will be shared on our website.**

<https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/gallery/?pid=49&gcatid=4>

- **PE with Joe Wicks and other ideas page**

You will find links to Joe's videos and attached are some PE activities and challenges to try at home

<https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=PE+with+Joe+Wicks+and+other+ideas&pid=79>

- **Science - Learning at home page**

You will find science resources

<https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=Science+%2D+Learning+at+home&pid=80&action=saved>

- **E-safety guidance on the new popular app 'House Party'**

<https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=E%2DSafety&pid=73&action=saved>

[E-Safety - www.dunstableicknield.co.uk](http://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk)

- **Mental health / mindfulness for children and parents page**

<https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=Mental+Health+%2F+Mindfulness+for+children+and+parents&pid=96>

includes videos of staff, resources and website links to support parents and children

- A message from the Central Beds library - things you can tune into

<https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=Activities+and+learning+that+you+can+tune+into+from+home&pid=84&action=saved>

- **ICT policies updated and uploaded to policy section of website**

Recent additions to the School Website:

- **BBC bitesize daily link and timetable**

<https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=Home+Learning&pid=49>

- **non-screen activities to try at home**

<https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=Isolation+%2D+Fun+activities+and+ideas+to+do+at+home&pid=83>

- science habitats lesson video -

<https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=Science+%2D+Learning+at+home&pid=80&action=saved>

- Mental health advice -

<https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=Mental+Health+%2F+Mindfulness+for+children+and+parents&pid=96&action=saved>

- **StarLine is a national home learning helpline offering expert information and advice to parents and carers -**

<https://www.starline.org.uk/>

- <https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=Home+Learning&pid=49&action=saved>

- **The Maths Factor**

<https://www.themathsfactor.com/>

This is a maths education website set up by Carol Vorderman. It contains videos, tutorials and games on different aspects of maths. It was originally set up for children who struggle with maths and/ or have Special Educational Needs. However, it is regularly accessed by children of all abilities and children enjoy the fun approach to maths that it provides.

During the school closure, Carol Vorderman has made this website free for all to access.

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School Vacancies (we continue to plan for school life after Coronavirus):

- **Full Time Class Teacher for September start**

Dunstable Icknield Lower School, a vibrant and inclusive LA maintained school located near to the town centre of Dunstable is seeking to appoint an exceptional class teacher.

The job is currently listed following the link below:

<https://teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk/jobs/class-teacher-primary-dunstable-icknield-lower-school#job-details>

- **Casual Cover Cleaning Staff**

Our school is currently undertaking daily enhanced cleaning of the school buildings. If you would be interested in the opportunity to support our wonderful cleaning team, please contact the school office for an application.