



DILS News

Dunstable Icknield Lower School Newsletter Issue 71
5th June 2020



CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK: School is now partially open only for children in Reception, Year 1 and the children of key worker and vulnerable families. Nursery will re-open on Monday 8 June. 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>

Short Notice Changes

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.

PARTIAL RE-OPENING

This week we partially re-opened our school and welcomed back the children from Reception and Year 1. The school looks very different now, but this is so we can keep everyone safe. On Monday we will be welcoming back our nursery children. We have organised our children in small 'bubbles' instead of their usual classes and we have staggered start and end times to the day for different groups to avoid larger gatherings of groups of people. We are sorry if any of these changes are inconvenient, but they are necessary to support as many children as possible.

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.

If you are a key worker, and you have not already done so, please supply documentary evidence in the form of a letter from your employer.

PARTIAL RE-OPENING- INFORMING US OF CHANGES

It has been great to see lots of Reception and Year 1 children starting to come back into school. We have also noticed that some children are still choosing to learn at home. If you change your mind and decide that you would like to send your child into school, we need at **least 48 hrs notice** before you would like them to come in. This applies to nursery as well. As I am sure you can understand, there are a lot of logistics involved in following the government guidelines and organising the 'bubbles' of children which cannot change day to day. **Please email your child's class teacher to let them know.**

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.

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,

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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:

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

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<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](https://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.

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>