



# DILS News

Dunstable Icknield Lower School Newsletter Issue 70

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020



**CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK: School closed for the majority of children from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March until further notice.**

**The Government plan to make a final announcement on the re-opening of primary schools on Thursday 28 May 2020.**

We hope everyone is keeping safe and well at home as our school closure continues. This is our last newsletter of this half term. Next week is a half term break from home learning for children and teachers (both in school and at home). So, there will be no home learning or Zoom calls next week for children.

There are still links to helpful home learning sites at the bottom of this newsletter.

All parents have been sent a letter today giving more details about what our phased return for children will look like after half term.

If you are a key worker or vulnerable family, your child will be able to request access to school in the usual way.

**The Power of Kindness** - There will be no home learning grids for next week as it is the May Half Term, so we challenge all our students to do a kind action each day of the holiday which they could share with school.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJ7bJN5k-jE>

**Play at Home Fest** - Taleshakers are opening the 3ft Stage at The Play at Home Festival this weekend. It looks like a brilliant online event with lots of things going on for EYFS children and probably relevant for some Yr 1 as well. They have 10,000 people booked in to watch from all over the world so it should be a good weekend. I have pasted a link below.

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/leisure-theatres-and-museums/festivals-and-special-events/3foot-people-festival/3foot-pre-schooler-stage-at-playathomefest/>

**NGYT Presents: The BIG Sleepover!** - Join the NGYT Team for songs and stories around the campfire and get snuggled ready for bed. Quality time at its best. Little ones (and big kids..) Camp out in your living room and get your family and whole home involved. Grab all the cushions, blankets and lights you can find. Make a den, blanket fort or tent set up in your living room, get the snacks ready, set up Zoom and away we go on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 6pm - 6.30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ngyts-the-big-sleepover-tickets-105945126726?aff=efbeventtix>

## **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](mailto: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.

## **IDEAS FOR HOME LEARNING**

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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## **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](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](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](https://m.box.com/shared_item/https%3A%2F%2Fcentralbedfordshire.box.com%2Fs%2Fhgv13pzwscpukp7eg5zp6lmk7rap2hl4)

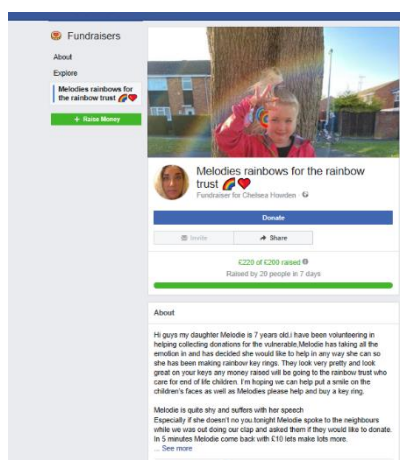
**Parental Survey** - In order to help Sustrans and Central Bedfordshire Council plan for the future and to further promote active travel to families, we have produced a simple online survey for parents to fill in. There is a prize incentive for one lucky respondent who will win a £400 bicycle to suit their child. It takes less than 5 minutes and the link is:

<https://sustrans.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/cbc-schools-parent-survey>

**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.

**Charity Work** – Melodie in Y2 has been working hard with help from her mum to raise money for charity. They have set up a fundraiser page on Facebook and aimed to raise £200 to help vulnerable families in Dunstable, and in one day only Melodie managed to raise £80 with the help of her family and friends! If you would like to help her raise more money, please follow the link: <https://www.facebook.com/donate/859738737867200/>

Well done, Melodie, we are extremely proud of you!



## **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**

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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/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.

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

- **Middy Supervisors** – We have opportunities for relief lunchtime work at our school. You will be supervising children in the dining hall and be responsible for ensuring the safety, welfare and good conduct of pupils during the midday break. If you are interested in this position and would like more information, please call the school

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office on 01582 663709 and ask for Mrs White, or email our school office on [dunstable@icknieldlower.bedsch.co.uk](mailto:dunstable@icknieldlower.bedsch.co.uk)