



DILS News



Dunstable Icknield Lower School Newsletter Issue 69

15th May 2020

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK: School closed for the majority of children from Friday 20th March until further notice.

We hope everyone is keeping safe and well at home as our school closure continues. We will still be sending out weekly newsletters to keep you all updated and please check the Home Learning page on our website for ideas to support your child at home. There are also links to helpful home learning sites at the bottom of this newsletter.

Following the Government's announcement on plans to re-open schools for children in nursery, reception and Year 1 children from 1st June 2020, we are currently gathering advice and information to inform planning and actions for our school to re-open safely. We are working as quickly as possible to make the arrangements and to ensure compliance and await the outcome of a meeting between Government experts and teaching union representatives on Friday 15 May. To support the school in enabling this preparation, please try not to contact the school about re-opening arrangements unless it is an urgent matter. Please be assured that, we will communicate with you as soon as we can to confirm our plans for the half term holidays and beyond.

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.

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.

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

Learn, Believe, Achieve



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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**
You will find live channels that you can tune into for some home learning like astronomy space science, marine biology etc

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

- Home Learning ICT with Mr P message to parents about home learning video
<https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=Home+Learning&pid=49>
- Year 3 & 4 support with French page - resources and videos
<https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=Year+3+%26amp%3B+4+%2D+Support+with+French&pid=93>
- News & Events: **ARTS EXPERIENCE - The National Theatre is going to stream a free play every Thursday night at 7pm on their Youtube channel.**

<https://www.dunstableicknield.co.uk/page/?title=News+%26amp%3B+Events&pid=3>

- **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

- **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>

- **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

- **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+parent&s&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**

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<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):

- **Midday 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 office on 01582 663709 and ask for Mrs White, or email our school office on dunstable@icknieldlower.bedssch.co.uk