



# DILS News



Dunstable Icknield Lower School Newsletter Issue 66

24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

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

At a time when the daily lives of everyone look very different, anxieties are high and we wonder when things will get back to normal, I would like to share some insightful thoughts I read yesterday (author unknown):

### **What if???**

If schools remain closed for the rest of the school year, children will miss 3 months of education. Many people are concerned about children's progress slowing, or 'falling behind' because of this. Yes, progress may slow down for a little while when it comes to classroom education...

But what if...

What if instead of 'falling behind', this group of children are ENRICHED because of this?

What if they have more empathy, they enjoy family connection, they can be more creative and entertain themselves, they love to read, they love to express themselves in writing, pictures and performing to any audience who will watch?

What if they enjoy the simple things which are free, like their own garden, a book and sitting near a window being quiet, deep in their own thoughts?

What if they notice the birds and the times that different flowers and trees bloom, and the smell of a gentle rain shower?

What if this generation are the ones to learn to eat more healthily, organize their time and space and keep a well-run household?

What if they learn how to make money go further and to live with less 'stuff'?

What if they learn to plan shopping trips to consume less, save money and help to reduce waste, pollution and global warming?

What if they learn the value of eating together as a family and finding the good to share and talk about in the small delights of the everyday?

What if they are the ones to place greater value on all of our essential support workers that have been taken for granted in the past like all NHS workers and support staff, social care providers, delivery drivers, farmers, grocers, cashiers, refuse collectors, emergency workers just to name a few of the millions taking care of us right now while we are safe in one place?

What if among these children, a great leader emerges who had the benefit of time and a simpler life to truly learn what really matters in this life?

What if these children are better able to think of others before themselves when they see people struggle after seeing thousands of people around the country on TV doing things for others?

What if they are ahead?

Parents and carers, **you are doing an amazing job** and although it can be stressful, this time at home with you will probably leave a greater impression on your child than any teacher or school could. Embrace this time, accept that sometimes this will be frustrating and there may be tears and tantrums (not just from the children!). When we get through this, and we will, your child will have memories to last a lifetime. They are now part of living history and will share their experiences with generations to come.

### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND ADVICE**

Families registered for **Free School Meals** through Central Bedfordshire will begin to receive food vouchers on a term time weekly basis, until schools re-open. If you think your family are entitled to Free School Meals 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.

***Learn, Believe, Achieve***



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[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%2Fhg13pzwscupkp7eg5zp6lmk7rap2hl4](https://m.box.com/shared_item/https%3A%2F%2Fcentralbedfordshire.box.com%2Fs%2Fhg13pzwscupkp7eg5zp6lmk7rap2hl4)

## 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  
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)
  - **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&catid=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](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>

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- **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>

## 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](mailto:dunstable@icknieldlower.bedssch.co.uk)