

STAPLEHURST SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

## SCHOOL NEWS

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers

**“Children always come first. They are our future.”**

In such unparalleled times, where everything we know and are sure of is turned upside down, I thought it was important to end our school term officially with our school newsletter - the pillar of home-school liaison!

We do appreciate that you are trying to juggle working from home, the anxieties around our current situation and trying to teach your children. However, even during these times I know that it is important to all of us that our children's entitlement to learning continues.

In order to support you next term we have outlined a menu of support (attached in this newsletter) and guidance which is intended to give you clarity over expectations, allow your children to learn with greater independence, and to provide support from teachers.

#### Outline of expectations:

- Children will complete daily Maths and English which will be set on Purple Mash.
- Children and parents can then choose to complete activities from the Term 5 topic overview or PRIDE challenges (optional)
- Timetables will be provided as guidance
- EYFS daily tasks/activities to be uploaded to the website

KS1 & 2 parents please make sure you are familiar with the Purple Mash guidance and have tried logging into the system. Our main core daily activities will be on this platform.

Please be mindful that many of the approaches we are taking are new to us too, and it will take a little time to embed our systems and to iron out any difficulties. We're looking forward to learning and developing this with you in Term 5. As you will appreciate this guidance could be subject to change if there is a significant change to staffing levels over the next few weeks.

Please continue to stay very safe over the holiday and we look forward to working with you in Term 5.

Miss Davenport  
Headteacher

## CURRICULUM NEWS



It is important to all of us that our children's entitlement to learning continues during the period of school closure. In order to support you in the days to come we have outlined a menu of support with some guidance for you.

### The school's commitment

Our overall aim is to continue to develop our children's lifelong independent thinking and learning skills, taking into consideration the adjustment and challenges that families are currently undergoing. To deliver this we will continue to connect to all our families through clear communication channels and strive to offer excellent guidance and support.

Menu of Support	Steps to Support	Guidance
<b>Reports</b>	We will be sending home reports from Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please celebrate with your child their learning and achievement to date and consider the areas that you can support them with during the school closure.</li> </ul>
<b>Suggested Timetable</b>	<p>A suggested timetable for EYFS, KS1&amp;2 will be uploaded onto our website by Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020.</p> <p>A blank timetable will be sent in addition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is guidance to allow you to structure your days together.</li> <li>Many of you will be working from home so please feel free to design your own timetable based on your needs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Delivery of the curriculum:</b></p> <p><b><u>DAILY Learning:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core daily learning through our online system <b>Purple Mash (KS1&amp;2).</b></li> </ul> <p><b>EYFS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core daily learning (please refer to weekly planning).</li> </ul>	<p>Core daily Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English (including KS1 phonics and KS2 SPAG).</li> <li>Maths using our online platform <b>Purple Mash.</b></li> </ul> <p>Parent guide will be sent and uploaded to our website.</p> <p>Please log in over the holiday and become familiar with the platform.</p> <p><b>EYFS:</b></p> <p>Play based activities (refer to topic and weekly plan).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly plans/guidance will be uploaded onto the website to outline the daily activities EYFS - KS1&amp;2.</li> <li>There will be English- KS1 phonics; KS2 SPAG and Maths activities.</li> <li>All activities will be posted in the 'To Do' section on Purple Mash by the class teacher.</li> <li><b><i>The expectation is that children complete these daily and teachers will provide feedback and comments.</i></b></li> </ul>
<p><b><u>OPTIONAL Learning:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a choice from topic skills and PRIDE challenges (optional)</li> </ul> <p><b>EYFS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a choice from topic skills and PRIDE challenges (optional)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Developing Life Skills:</b> Topic learning and/or Daily PRIDE Challenges (<b>OPTIONAL</b>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents and children can select what they would like to develop from the termly topic and/or the termly pride challenges.</li> <li>This will allow parents flexibility to arrange their day around work commitments</li> </ul>
<p><b>Communication:</b></p> <p><b>Communication channels established for children, parents and staff:</b></p>	<p><b>Children:</b> via Purple Mash to the class teacher.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please encourage your children to make a comment when they submit their learning. Purple Mash is a safe platform for children to interact in this way.</li> </ul>

Menu of Support	Steps to Support	Guidance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Blog: teachers will blog regularly during the week on Purple Mash.</li> <li>▪ Children can respond; anonymous blogs will not be accepted.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Parents:</b> Year Group email to be provided by Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to share home learning queries (all other matters should be sent to the school office via our school contact form on the website).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Year group emails will allow parents to share great examples of home learning and to raise any queries with the year group teachers.</li> <li>▪ Staff will respond daily (this will not be immediate).</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Staff:</b> regular phone calls to parents to provide support and guidance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff are keen to maintain strong communication with you and your child. These calls are important to us so that we can ensure our provision matches your child's needs. Please inform us of what is working and how we can support better.</li> </ul> <p><b>(please note that calls will appear as 'unknown caller')</b></p>
	<p><b>School phone/email between 8.30 – 3.15pm</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ You can phone school during school hours and use the contact form on the website should you have a query which is not related to your child's learning needs.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Social Media</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All updates will be posted regularly through this period.</li> <li>▪ Great examples of home learning will be uploaded to our website and shared in our newsletter.</li> </ul>

### Timeline

- Termly overviews and weekly planning for next term will be sent and uploaded to the website by Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- Year group emails will be sent to parents on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- Reports to parents will be sent from 24<sup>th</sup> April.
- Phone calls home will begin on our return to school in Term 5.

### Please note:

Teachers will be working across this period to deliver this for our children. At present we are staffed sufficiently to achieve this; if the position was to change significantly, we will inform you and where possible alternative support would be put in place.

**NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL SITE**

Each day pupils and staff have been keeping fit with the Joe Wicks PE lesson. It's great fun and we hope you've been joining in at home. What a fantastic way to start the day!



Other activities have included measuring out a life size Snakes and Ladders board on the playground (while keeping 2m away from each other of course!). This was a fun way to practice some mental arithmetic and exercise in the sunshine!



After noticing how windy it was one lunchtime, our Key Worker children spent the afternoon designing and constructing kites. They found value in their marvellous mistakes when the bent and broken kite worked better as it caught the wind!

