



Ashford Park Primary School

'Inspiring a love for lifelong learning'

7th February 2021

As we rapidly approach the end of this truly extraordinary half term, we wanted to say well done to us **ALL** for the resilience and determination demonstrated, as we work in partnership to be there either physically or virtually for the children of Ashford Park. We are all looking hopefully forward to what the second half of the Spring term will bring and we will of course update you, as to when we hear of any further news regarding changes to school opening. Please continue to be kind to yourself, as you are doing a truly incredible job. Approximately 33% of our children have been educated in school, with their parents employed as 'Critical workers to the Covid response', with our remaining and the majority of our parents / carers, magically combining their working day with their children's remote educational provision!

Half term and INSET day

Nationally schools will be fully closed over the half term holiday and INSET days will be honoured. For the large number of children who have been attending school, their last day will be on **Thursday, 11th February**. In addition to this, learning on Google Classroom will stop on this day and resume on **Monday 22nd February**.

Our plans for staff training day on Friday, when the school is closed to the children, will include an opportunity for staff to receive virtual update training with a specific focus on preparing APPS children to be successful, informed, well-rounded citizens of the future; ensuring our children's entitlement to a rich, diverse, broad and balanced curriculum. Learning support assistant colleagues will be receiving training on '*Targeted Mental Health Training in Schools*' (TAMHS).

From 1st to 7th February, we have been raising awareness on how to support our children with their mental health through #DressToExpress and [Children's Mental Health Week](#). Thank you for sending in some truly wonderful photographs of your children dressing to express whilst at home. We hope that the following resources may prove helpful to support your children: [Government guidance on supporting children's mental health and wellbeing](#) and [Anna Freud advice for parents and carers](#)

Support

We have also been available throughout this term to offer our usual support for families around finances, food, access to technology and housing etc. When we recommence the term if you have any welfare concerns, please do not hesitate to contact school and speak to our Home School Link Worker, Sam Girvan [HSLW contact details](#).

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- **IF YOU, OR MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY IS AT RISK OF IMMEDIATE HARM THEN CALL: 999**
- **NSPCC IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY TO OFFER ONLINE SUPPORT: HELP@NSPCC.ORG.UK, TELEPHONE SUPPORT 8AM – 10PM: 0808 800 5000**

Technology

We were pleased to eventually receive our shipment of 25 Google Chrome Books as promised by the government from the DfE, which have been distributed to some members of our community, along with an additional 25 Chrome Books from our school stock, as we endeavoured to provide an equitable education for all of our children at Ashford Park.

The 9th February is the national 'Safer Internet Day', with the theme this year being: '*An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world*' [Safer Internet Day 2021](#).

And so...

We will shortly be contacting you with details of our plans for the Spring term parent / carer consultations and with further information about World Book Day. In the meantime, we send our very best wishes to our families and staff who remain unwell from this horrid disease, and wish you all a speedy recovery. It would appear from the news that the data would indicate that Covid numbers are heading in a downward direction, however; PLEASE, may we urge you to follow the [Stay at home guidance](#) as we endeavor to support our parent community, who work tirelessly and directly on the front line with the NHS and **stay at home**, until this national lockdown comes to an end. The government have asked that schools continue to support the 'Track and Trace' initiative until Monday 15th February, therefore; if your child tests positive for CV-19 within 48 hours from Friday 12/02/21, please email covid@ashford-park.surrey.sch.uk and we will then commence the PHE Track and Trace procedures.

Finally ...

Please look out over the coming weeks for a special SUPERSTAR envelope that will shortly be arriving at your home addressed to your child/ren. This is a little something from APPS to remind each and every child at our school as to how truly wonderful and fantastic we know they are.

Please stay well and kind regards,

Mrs Sarah Tarrant

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