

Friday 24th April 2020

Dear Parent

Good afternoon. I hope the first week of the summer term has gone well for everyone. It has certainly been the most different start to a term I have ever experienced. We continue to be touched by all your kind messages and impressed with all the creative and imaginative learning going on at home.

The weather has been truly kind to us over the last few weeks and I am sure you have been making the most of it as best as you can. It looks like we are heading for some rain next week so I hope you can make the most of the sunshine over the weekend and at the start of next week.

As a parent, I understand the challenges of juggling work, home schooling and parenting in these challenging times. My thoughts are with each family every day. We are here to help so please don't hesitate to reach out if there isn't anything you feel we might be able to help with.

As well as this letter for parents, there is also a letter for the children attached to the email. I would be most grateful if you help your child or children access it. Thank you.

National Guidance

I am sure by now everyone is familiar with the current national guidance of;

The screenshot shows the GOV.UK website with a black background and white text. At the top left is the GOV.UK logo. Below it is the word 'Home'. The main heading is 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do'. Underneath is the section 'Stay at home' with three bullet points: 'Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)', 'Stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people', and 'Wash your hands as soon as you get home'. Below the bullet points is a note: 'You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms. Staying at home and away from others (social distancing)'. At the bottom are three logos: 'STAY AT HOME' with a house icon, 'PROTECT THE NHS' with a shield icon, and 'save lives' with a heart icon.

The graphic has a white background with a blue border. At the top left is the NHS logo. The main text reads: 'Do not leave home if you or someone you live with has either:'. Below this is a list of two symptoms: 'a high temperature' and 'a new, continuous cough'. At the bottom is a blue link: 'Check the NHS website if you have symptoms'.

Click on these link for -

[Full guidance on staying at home and away from others](#)

Guidance

What parents and carers need to know about schools and education during the coronavirus outbreak

Updated 19 April 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Changes to Restrictions

We are beginning to see a number of reports and speculation regarding when the restrictions will be adjusted including the 'reopening' of schools. First, I would like to thank everyone involved in enabling school to remain open including the Easter holidays to support vulnerable children and children of essential critical workers.

Schools have no more insight than the information that is already in the public domain. As I am sure many of you do, we watch the briefing each day to keep up to date with daily developments. We also receive daily emails from the Department for Education that follow on from the daily briefings.

While it would be inappropriate to speculate what might happen and when I would like to reassure families that the safety of children, their families and our staff will be at the forefront of all our planning and decision making. As we have done throughout this situation, we will follow the national requirements and guidance.

In addition I would like to reassure parents that we are undertaking appropriate scenario planning including how we would implement social distancing advice with a greater number of children in school. This may well involve a phased reopening with only some children attending each day. In this scenario we would of course continue to prioritise vulnerable children and children of critical workers attending as needed. We would also prioritise siblings attending on the same days.

We will keep parents up to date as and when we know more.

Wellbeing

The wellbeing of our children and their families has always be central to our vision of 'Love, Learn, Thrive'. In these challenging times this has never been more important. To complement the information already provided around this we are pleased to attach a newsletter from North Yorkshire Education Services with further ideas, suggestions and support for families.

Support for pupils and parents in primary schools in relation to mental and emotional wellbeing



Support to discuss COV-19 with children and young people

NSPCC have produced [a guide to coronavirus and supporting tools](#) if children and young people are worried.


Home Learning

We have updated our home learning page <http://follifootandspofforth.co.uk/home-learning> with further information that we hope you find helpful.

WELCOME	VISION, MISSION AND PRINCIPLES	ADMISSIONS	INFORMATION ▾	PARENTS ▾	CURRICULUM ▾	NEWS	CONTACT
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HOME LEARNING

Learning at Home

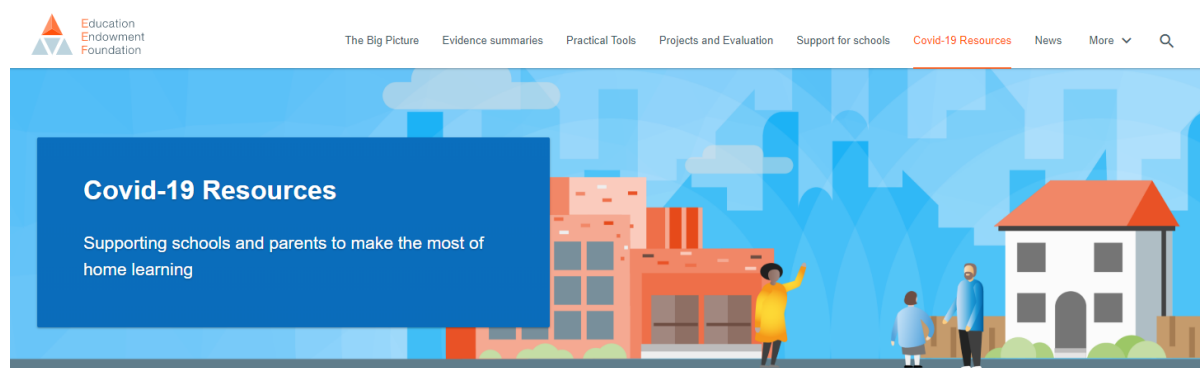


We continue to recognise the wide range of contexts families find themselves in at this time including varying levels of home working commitments for parents, multiple children of different ages and varying levels of access to technology and broadband.

We are able to help if it is proving difficult to access communications due to poor broadband speed or needing to share technology. Please do get in touch if you feel we can help.

We appreciate that each family is navigating these challenging times together in a variety of contexts. Our aim is to support families and in no way add to any pressure families may be experiencing. If children and families choose to follow other forms of learning you have our full support and encouragement to do this. We would like to reassure families that a routine and structure that suits each individual family is more important than completing any set amount of tasks.

Education Endowment Foundation



The Education Endowment Foundation has produced some very helpful guidance and advice to support parents with home learning

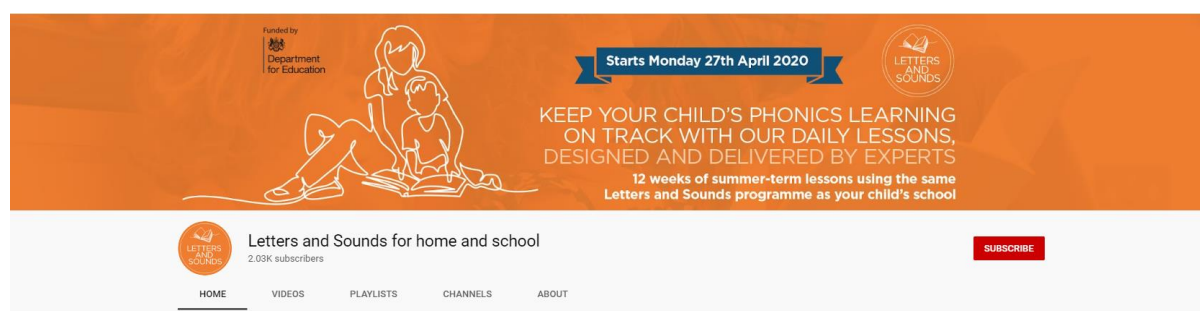
<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources#closeSignup>

Phonics

Starting this Monday 27th April 2020 the Department for Education is launching daily phonics learning videos. As appropriate teachers will be referencing these in their daily communication. Where you are able to access these we would encourage you to do so to support phonics learning.

I have attached two additional letters explaining a little more about this including one from the phonics hub we have been working with this year.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP_FbjYUP_UtldV2K_-niWw/featured?app=desktop



Printing

We try to limit the amount of printing required to support home learning however understand that printing some elements can be helpful. Please find below details of a local company who can provide printing cartridges.

We are told they are currently running an offer to support parents who are home schooling children of buy one get one half price. We have no direct experience of this company. They have been recommended by one of our families and we pass on their details in good faith.

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And finally...

I will continue to keep in touch with updates as appropriate. Once again, thank you for your understanding in this very difficult situation. We must do everything we can as a community to help each other and keep us safe from harm.

Very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Mr Paul Griffiths – Headteacher