



Monksdown Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Thursday 19th March 2020

Headteacher's Message

Dear All,

I write to you all at an unprecedented time in our school history – in the knowledge that we may not be together again as a whole school family for some time.

While we have of course been aware of the unfolding situation before us, we had to wait for the Government to decide that schools need to close for the majority of children. It will be incredibly sad to not be together as the Monksdown family for a while, but we must all trust that this is the right decision for the safety and wellbeing of all of our local, national and international community. As with all other schools in the country, we will be closing on **Friday 20th March at 3:00pm until further notice**. Liverpool City Council are currently working out how we can work together as a city to provide support to parents who are key workers, so that they are able to continue to go to work. This is because their jobs are crucial in helping to overcome the Coronavirus and help us within the community. When we have more information on exactly what this will look like, we will contact these parents. It would be very helpful if parents who are classed as key workers could contact school as soon as possible today on or via [email monksdown-ao@monksdown.liverpool.sch.uk](mailto:email.monksdown-ao@monksdown.liverpool.sch.uk) to inform us that you will need help to look after your child whilst you work during the closure period. Liverpool City Council are working with the NHS and emergency services to identify personnel that this will affect.

This week your child brought home a learning pack for them to work through. While this will of course not replicate the experience that our staff team provide for your child here at school, I certainly hope that this goes some way to provide a sense of routine and normality to your child during this extended period away from school. The school's website, www.monksdownprimary.co.uk has also been comprehensively updated and you can access links through the 'Home Learning' tab. This will be updated as often as possible by staff. It mainly contains web links to a wealth of online resources, all of which are free to access at home. Some websites will need a log in, but this can be found in your child's pack.

We understand that home learning is not going to be easy, but getting into a routine early on will really help, as children really do respond well if they know what to expect. We recommend a timetable for your child's day: getting up at the usual time and starting learning at normal school time, having regular breaks and drinking plenty of water.

Whilst we have to put 'social distancing' in place, why not go for a walk in Croxteth Park, along the beach at Crosby or Formby, along the promenade at Otterspool or to Princes Park, Calderstones Park or Sefton Park? The fresh air and exercise is good for physical and mental wellbeing and there is so much learning that can be done in the outdoors appropriate to every age group. If you are not self-isolating and if the Government guidance allows, a regular walk built into your timetable would be really beneficial.

We know that this may be very difficult time and we will still be available to you for advice and support whenever we can be. Questions about home learning can be sent to special home learning mailboxes that have been set up (see communications section below). These were in the letter sent in the packs and I will also put them onto the school website.

We are also sending home an excellent booklet from Liverpool School Improvement and Liverpool Learning Partnership, who are working with CAMHS. This booklet is called #mindhealthy@home and contains contact details of external agencies that can help to give advice to you and your children if required. You are welcome to share this booklet with other friends and families too. Safeguarding ourselves and each other is part of our community responsibility that we all share and at this time of uncertainty, knowing who to contact and how to talk to children about their worries is vital. There are also 'Resilience Challenges' for children to try within the booklet.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, you can also access support and advice through the Liverpool Safeguarding Partnership's website - <https://liverpoolscp.org.uk/scp/parents-carers/parents-carers> and if you are worried that a child or young person is at risk of harm, abuse or neglect, as always, you can contact CARELINE on 0151 233 3700.

You can also email safeguarding@monksdownprimary.co.uk.

Key Dates for your Diary

All dates are currently on hold until further notice.



Effective Communication

We will continue to contact you via Parent App and we will post challenges on Twitter.



If you would like to share photos of learning experiences with us on Twitter, we'd love to see them (@monksdownschool)

Email addresses to send any questions or queries to our staff members:

nurserymonks@gmail.com, receptionmonks@gmail.com

spalvierimonks12@gmail.com, balmermonks13@gmail.com

bynonmonks22@gmail.com, mrallenmonks23@gmail.com

mrcrane@monksdownprimary.co.uk, mrhaughey@monksdownprimary.co.uk

missfarley@monksdownprimary.co.uk, mrsJoynson@monksdownprimary.co.uk

mrcorrigan@monksdownprimary.co.uk, mrssmith@monksdownprimary.co.uk

missjones@monksdownprimary.co.uk, Mrsfawcett@monksdownprimary.co.uk

Mrwignall@monksdownprimary.co.uk, mrsmrozik@monksdownprimary.co.uk

Please note that you may not get an immediate response to these emails but staff will work hard to answer all of your questions. If your child would like to create any digital home learning (E.g. on PowerPoint), please send it to the appropriate address above too

THANK YOU!

I would like to say a huge thank you to every one of you for your support during this time. I'm sure you will join me in thanking our staff members profusely for their commitment and hard work in ensuring that we provide the best possible continuity of service for your children, however that might look in the future.

We look forward to seeing you all again as soon as we can. Keep safe and well.

*My sincere best wishes
God Bless*

Mrs Price

To the NHS
Staff. The nurses
and doctors.
The teachers
and exhausted
supermarket
shelf stackers.



Thank you