

Tuesday 2nd June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers of Ecclesall Primary School children,

I am writing to all our Parents and Carers from Ecclesall Primary School who are home schooling their children at present. We understand how difficult it is for you and your children not having the normality of school life and like you, we are desperate for things to return to normal as soon as they possibly can.

All our letters are put on our school website either under the Letters section

<https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/letters/> for the EPS monthly updates or under the Covid section

<https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/covid-19/> for all Update letters from school or from the Local

Authority, Public Health England or Learn Sheffield. I emailed all parents recently with the links to our last two update letters but some are more applicable for key worker children and some for children working from home at present.

Well-being/ Transition

Change can be tricky for children (and adults!). Some children will have been away from school for quite a while having a very different routine at home or some may have been in school but are now adapting to further changes in school. During this transition period, you may see changes in your child's behaviour and sleep as they learn to adapt.

We thought it would be useful to share with you some ideas and resources for how you can help support your child with these changes. However, it's up to you if and when you decide to use these. Think positive! You have helped your child with many difficult transitions in the past so think about what has worked well in the past.

You could begin by starting to help your child reflect on their 'lockdown experience' and starting back at school. Discuss their best bits about lockdown, talk about the things about school they are looking forward to.

Attached with this letter and on our EPS website you will find a special **Emotional Well being home learning pack** that Jo Kay, our SENCO has put together. It would be great each week if you could try an activity from the emotional well-being home learning pack. Thanks.

Other resources that can be found on our EPS website under Mental Health and Well-being using this link <https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/mental-health-and-well-being/> include:

1. A story about coronavirus which you could use to discuss the virus with your child. The BBC Newsround website also has child friendly information <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>.
2. A talking mat which can be used to explore how your child is feeling and support them with any worries they may have.
3. A weekly planner which you could use to help explain what their new weekly schedule will look like when they return to school.
4. A CAMHS booklet which includes tips on having tricky conversations with children.

Online home learning

We are aiming to continue with our home distance learning as there are many children in all year groups who are not attending our school during Summer term 2. Our online home distance learning via the curriculum section of the EPS website continues to be available for all children. Please click on the link:

<https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/curriculum-2/> .

As you are probably already aware, below are the individual year group curriculum links for all year groups. Each year group has a weekly home distance learning plan with useful links and other information and there are also other resources attached. Different teachers and Teaching Assistants have recorded themselves and sent the link weekly on this home distance learning too. Please take a look!

Reception <https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/reception/>

Y1 <https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/y1/>

Y2 <https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/y2/>

Y3 <https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/y3/>

Y4 <https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/y4/>

Y5 <https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/y5/>

Y6 <https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/y6/>

Other useful resources to aid home learning include:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>

<https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom>

Year group emails

As the vast majority of our staff (30 adults) are now working in a “bubble”, we will not be able to reply as quickly to **year group emails** for children continuing to learn from home. We will try our best to reply as soon as we can but please bear with us during this very busy time. Please can I remind you to only email staff between 8am and 4pm from Monday to Friday. Thanks very much.

We ask our parents/carers and children to send their class teacher one piece of work each week if possible.

Anyone who has not been in touch via the year group emails sharing work or emailing teachers will be contacted by either email or phone to check that everything is ok at home. Joanna Kay, SENCO, will continue to contact all SEN children. As I’ve said in my Head Teacher videos, if you have any concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact school.

I would like to greatly thank all my wonderful, caring, hardworking staff and governors for everything over these last two months but also to all our parents/carers and children.

Now we have 15 bubbles established with 30 staff we are at capacity at present and cannot take any more children and maintain the safety of both children and staff for the time being. We will be in touch when we are able to increase our numbers with more bubbles dependent on staffing but this will not be before Monday 15th June at the earliest. (This includes children of key workers and vulnerable children as already stated)..

Thank you so much for all the positive emails and personal thanks. It really does help and keep us all going!

We hope you are all well and are thinking about you, your children and your families at home.

Kind Regards

Emma Hardy

Head Teacher
Ecclesall Primary School

Nicole Ramsey

Deputy Head Teacher
Ecclesall Primary School

Guy Willatt

Deputy Head Teacher
Ecclesall Primary School