

Ramsgate Arts Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

We find ourselves in the most difficult of times and I have, over the last couple of weeks, spent time talking to a wide range of people across our school community. My honest opinion is that we are all trying to do the best we can in what are unprecedented circumstances. It doesn't matter who you are, the role you play or indeed how important you are perceived to be. The simple truth is lots of people are stressed, worried and at times overwhelmed with the complete change to our normal lives. We are in essence human beings trying to make the best of a complicated and worrying situation.

As we approach Easter, I just wanted to keep you all informed of the way forward and the next steps for next term. The current restrictions we are facing are not going to change very quickly and it therefore seems feasible that we should all be preparing for this. I also believe that we should now begin to think about pacing ourselves for this, and ensure that we provide each other with the support we need. That is why I wish to remind you all of some key information:

Easter Holidays

The three schools across the Trust have joined together to offer a Holiday Club at RAPS for the Critical Workers' children across the Trust. Staff have volunteered to give up their time to support this club. You would have already been notified if you have a place.

As it is the holiday period, staff will not be setting work on the blogs or answering e-mails as they have been over the past weeks. If you are stuck for activities to do with your child, go to our website

<https://www.ramsgateartsprimaryschool.co.uk/> click on Your Class, scroll down to Support Information for Parents and you will find lots of links to good quality learning resources. There is also an Easter Egg Challenge and the Easter Bonnet competition set by myself and Mrs Beech – see website for more details.

School Home Learning

For Term 5, we will continue to post our daily blogs. The teachers are working hard to ensure that the activities are as accessible as possible; there have been some recent additions with Padlet which also enables the children to communicate with each other and share their work. You would have been sent a secure password through MCAS. We are totally understanding of the fact that this is in no way replicating normal school life. It is impossible to do so given the current situation and we do not expect you to battle with your children over completing everything. These are extraordinary times and there is enough pressure on parents just having everyone under the same roof! There are no ideal situations given the current climate and for most of us this feels a little like being in survival-mode each day. So please do not stress over trying to achieve the award for being the parent who has got their children to do everything, instead use our work as a guide and try and get the children to do what you can.

As parents, our main aim should be to reduce anxieties, to ease tension and to make life as enjoyable as we can. Just do what you can and focus on what you can do without adding to your burdens. Get the younger children reading daily in small amounts, read to them, play games with numbers but make it fun. Even older children will

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relish their time with you. Get cooking, painting, do physical games, do some writing, keep a diary and tell them some of your stories from times past. This is for the long haul, so just stay as sane as possible.

Term 5 School Opening for Critical Workers and Vulnerable children.

From Thursday 16th April, the school will be again open for children of Critical Workers. Today, a form would have been sent to you to apply for a place. As you can appreciate, we have a limited amount of resources and only have a skeleton staff available, so places are limited. Because of the amount of previous applications, we will have to prioritise those families with two key workers or lone parents who are also key workers. If you receive a place, you will be informed before Monday 13th April.

The message this Easter is a simple one to all of you whatever your role, position, age or current situation. We will continue to do what we can for each other, to keep communication channels open, to provide support and to continue to be thankful for those of you who are risking yourselves daily.

In 28 years of teaching, I never thought I would find myself having to deal with the challenges that we face today. I, like you, have many roles: a husband, a father, a son, a Head of School, a colleague and a friend. I, like many of you, have no concrete answers to many questions, cannot predict tomorrow let alone next week, and have to manage all the emotions that come from such uncertainty. I just wanted to let you know that none of you are alone, we are in this together.

Stay safe



Mr Budge

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