

Ellington Infant School

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Dear families,

I hope this letter finds you, your families and friends healthy and welcome to our first remote term!

We miss the children very much but must follow the government guidance to keep everyone in our community safe. We have all had to adapt to new ways of working, so I wanted to take the opportunity to say what an amazing job you are doing supporting your child's wellbeing and learning during this time.

At the time of writing this letter I have no idea when school will be open again. As a school we do not receive any information about school's reopening from the Department of Education other than what we all see in the news, I cannot even give you my best guess. The school currently remains open to some children as we continue to provide emergency care for some vulnerable pupils and children of critical care workers.

Keeping Connected.

It has definitely been a strange and challenging time, so it's ok if you and your child feel wobbly and worried at the moment. We're here for you every step of the way as we figure this out together. Remember if you have any concerns about helping your child learn at home or you need any other help from the school please let us know by either emailing your class teacher through the year group emails;

yearr@ellington-infant.kent.sch.uk

year1@ellington-infant.kent.sch.uk

year2@ellington-infant.kent.sch.uk

or calling the school on 01843 591638. Teachers and Yvonne, our FLO, will continue to make regular phone calls to keep the lines of communication open, if you have not received any calls from your teacher but have had several withheld number calls, that has probably been us!

Home Learning

We have also loved seeing the children's fantastic learning at home via Tapestry or email. Aside from the Easter break we have been sending out suggested weekly home learning activities and as I said in my previous letter these are exactly that, suggestions. Please do not feel under pressure to complete them all. We are aware that this is a stressful time and the increase in internet use across Thanet has created connection difficulties for many. The most important thing from our point of view is to establish a routine with your child, exercise daily, do something creative – such as baking or making and cuddle up with a book and enjoy stories together; creating a love of reading is one of the biggest blessings a child can have.

You might be already aware that the BBC are putting on some great learning and revision activities across all year groups and these can be accessed on a device or TV, through BBC iPlayer. Here is the link

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

Again, as mentioned in my previous letter, increased use of the internet by children increasing the risk of exploitation, this link offers some top tips for keeping your children safe online.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>

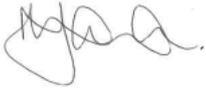


Food Vouchers

Those children entitled to benefits related free school meals (FSM) have been receiving e-codes for food vouchers. If your circumstances change and you feel your child is now entitled to a FSM then you will need to apply online through <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent/>

Finally, as soon as I have any further information about when schools will reopen you will be the first ones to know. Until then rest assured that we will continue doing our utmost to keep your children learning and our school community connected.

Until then, please keep safe and look after each other,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Brown', written in a cursive style.

N. Brown
Headteacher