



## West Ashtead Primary School

### Newsletter Number 15 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

I hope everyone is continuing to be safe and happy. It is remarkable how much our lives have changed and what seemed important a month ago is now trivial. We are a very adaptable species!

#### Home Learning

Many thanks to you all on coping so well with the changeover to home learning. I know that many of you are juggling this alongside working from home. It is not easy and I appreciate everything you are doing. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mrs Legg and all the teaching staff who have thrown themselves into getting Google Classroom up and running. They have had no training and are learning on the job alongside your children. They have put in many extra hours and a lot of sweat and tears. I am very grateful that we have such committed staff.

From Easter, Google Classroom will be the main access point for your child's learning. Staff are busy refining and after Easter there will be a weekly timetable to help you structure your child's learning. Home learning is very different to being in school and learning in short chunks is the way to go. You will not be able to replicate a whole 6 hour school day so please do not even think of putting yourselves under that pressure. I have enjoyed the phone calls that I have made to families and am comforted by your resilience and fortitude.

Teachers will not be setting work over the Easter holiday as all families and staff need time to rest, recuperate and get ready for the Summer Term. We will be up and running on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### Easter Opening and Summer Term

Many thanks to the school staff who have volunteered to support Critical Workers' children over the Easter holiday.

The summer term officially starts on Monday 20 April, but like yourselves, we have no further information than what is general public knowledge. We will keep you informed of any official updates about school re-opening, as we receive them.

#### Miss Dalchow

Today is the last teaching day for Miss Dalchow. She joined us in January 2019 and has made a great difference to the science teaching across the school. She has also planned and equipped our new STEAM room alongside organising a fantastically well-resourced STEAM week. We also have our fingers crossed that all her hard work means that we will be awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark! She built great relationships with her class and helped out wherever she could. We are very grateful for her enthusiasm and wish her all the best at her new school. She is now busy writing reports for 5D. Mrs Marie Andrews will be taking up the virtual teaching baton after Easter. I am hoping that 5D will actually get to meet her face to face!

## A message from Mrs Meadows, our ELSA

I am really missing all of the children and looking forward to seeing them when we eventually return to school. In the meantime here are a couple of ideas to help keep them busy. Most children love Lego and so could try the 30 day Lego challenge at [That Brick Life](#) Another good site is, [Cosmic Kids Yoga](#) for yoga, relaxation, mindfulness and dance. I know that a lot of children have been making rainbows to display in their windows, maybe they could add a positive affirmation to each of the coloured arcs. Finally, if you can it is always good to spend some time together at the end of the day talking about the positive things that have happened.

## Safeguarding and On-line Safety

Following Government guidelines, we have added an addendum to our Safeguarding Policy during these school closures.

Please be assured that we continue to monitor all our children very carefully in these difficult times. We have protocols to follow if we have any concerns about our children's welfare.

We have decided not to get swept along on the tide of live streaming/conferencing until we have thoroughly researched any potential risks to our children or our staff.

Thank you to Mrs Wharton for signposting these official resources from NCA CEOP to support families in keeping their children safe on-line.

*#OnlineSafetyAtHome intends to provide families with support and resources to teach their child online safety messages at home, as many will have increased access to the internet during this period of isolation.*

*The Agency is kicking off its programme by providing 15-minute activities to parents and carers to do with their children. New activities will be launched fortnightly. Activities have been specifically designed to be fun, yet educational, using the Thinkuknow content for the target age group.*

*Activities will be available for families' children across all age groups (4-5, 5-7, 8-10, 11-14 and 14+) and delivered to families through the new delivery methods being used by schools, as well as sectors including social care, law enforcement, health and charity. Parents and carers can also view the content directly from the [Thinkuknow site](#).*

*The Agency is also releasing COVID-19 specific content through [Parent Info](#), a news feed and website the NCA runs with digital family experts Parent Zone.*

*Over the coming weeks and months, NCA-CEOP will be releasing a whole host of information under the #OnlineSafetyAtHome campaign. To keep up to date, please follow us on social @ClickCEOP (FB) and CEOPUK (Twitter).*

I hope that you all have a lovely Easter and stay safe.

Best wishes  
Ruth Hall  
Headteacher

## [DATES FOR YOUR DIARY](#)

**Details of up-coming events are kept updated on our [CALENDAR](#)**

Please do regularly check it for any changes and new events