



Seal

Church of England
Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs E. Mitchell

Head of School: Mrs L Butler

27th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to thank you all for your support over the past week. As you are aware the school closed to the majority of our parents on Friday 20th March remaining open on Monday 23rd to keyworkers whose work was critical to the Covid-19 response. However, by Wednesday all of our families responded to the Prime Minister's call to stay at home, if possible, and the school closed.

You may have heard in the media that some schools are opening over the Easter holidays for vulnerable and keyworker pupils. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer this provision as the builders are scheduled to commence the internal modifications over this period. If you fall into the vulnerable or keyworker category and need to access childcare over the holidays, please contact me and I can direct you to another local school who can facilitate this arrangement. After the holidays we shall get back in touch with the families that expressed an interest this provision and reassess the position.

I would like to thank all the staff for creating an engaging on-line curriculum and I am sure you are all awaiting the next challenge from Mrs Mitchell and Miss Fermor on Monday morning. As a school we have been overwhelmed by the children's engagement with their learning and want to thank parents for enabling this. We have really enjoyed seeing pictures and videos of the children's learning so please keep sending them in.

Fegans

We appreciate that we are all experiencing difficult times and would like to remind you to get in contact if you need support or help. Please contact myself headofschool@seal.kent.sch.uk or Mrs Gadd, Family Liaison Officer dgadd@seal.kent.sch.uk

I would also like to direct you to the support offered by Fegans a registered charity which supports parents and offers counselling for children. In response to the current climate, they have taken 6 steps to support families. The steps they have taken are detailed below:

1. Fegans have launched a Digital Family hub with all our resources at <https://www.fegans.org.uk/family-hub/> and share all of our parenting products, therapy tips/blogs/articles in one place, completely free of charge.

2. They have refocused their parenting website DAD.info (Reach 750,000, Forum 40,000) to reach all parents and carers, not just Dads at this time of unprecedented need.
3. All of Fegans parent support workers will be offering free parenting interventions & tips to Mums and Dads via the DAD.info forum
4. Fegans self-isolating therapists will be offering video therapy for teenagers from April 20th (booking opening Monday)
5. Fegans are launching a zoom counselling service (for teenagers) with our therapists that are now stuck at home (referrals - info@fegans.org.uk)
6. Fegans' preschool staff will be offering daily play and reading challenges video streamed via the family hub

Safeguarding

Our commitment to the safeguarding of our students remains our priority during the school's closure and throughout these uncertain times. If you have a concern relating to any child please do contact me via headofschool@seal.kent.sch.uk and I will respond to say that your concern has been received.

Safety online

Given our closure, it is likely to mean that many children will be spending an increased amount of time online over the coming weeks. Online safety is an important part of keeping children safe and as such we would like to share some helpful advice to help you consider how you can keep your family safer online at home. You will find this and other information in the safeguarding area of our website www.sealprimary.com

Free School Meals

We have been made aware that some parents in the County have been approached via text and/or e-mail in relation to Free School Meal arrangements in light of Covid-19 (Coronavirus).

We understand parents have been asked to provide their bank details and personal information about children who are eligible, including names and dates of birth, with a promise that money will be sent to them directly, **this information is not accurate.**

We have contacted parents who are eligible for free school meals. Therefore, please do not respond to any messages you receive unless they come directly from the school.

Can we also take this time to remind you to be aware of anyone who contacts you either directly or via social media offering services for your family in these difficult times. Unless you can trust them, you should not be sharing personal information related to you or your family as it may not be used in the manner you would have hoped.

Thank you for your continued support and a big thank you to you all for the home learning you are doing with your pupils. If you have any further questions please contact me on headofschool@seal.kent.sch.uk

Best wishes

Mrs Butler
Head of School



