



March 27th 2020

Coronavirus Update

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

A week into our general school closure, we wanted to write to you to tell you how it has been for us and to reply to the many requests/ enquiries received over the past week.

As you are aware, school remains open to a small number of children from 'Critical Worker' homes. We thank parents who have made alternative arrangements within their household thus keeping this number to a minimum to reduce risk to all. It was right and proper for the country to stand together (albeit two metres apart) last night to honour the extraordinary efforts of our NHS but I also thank our staff on your behalf for providing this necessary and valuable service in school. Again, such commitment to beating this terrible disease deserves to be recognised.

The material on the 'Home Learning' tab has been well received. Especially the 'Robin Hood' section which allows families to decide their own projects. There have been a few hiccups along the way, dealing with companies who require accounts and log on details on the first visit to their site. These difficulties will recede as you revisit however I do have an offer code for Twinkl which some parents have been looking for. This can be accessed by going to www.twinkl.co.uk/offer and using the code PARENTSTWINKLHELPS.

Twinkl have also created a 'Home Learning Hub' which includes activities and age appropriate resources put together in a handy timetable to support a child's learning at this time. This can be found at <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/home-learning-hub>

They also produced this blog to help support your school and parents:

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/blog/how-to-utilise-twinkl-during-the-coronavirus-shutdown-a-guide-for-schools>

Here are some resources for KS1 and KS2 which might also be helpful:

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/class-management/school-closure-home-learning-classroom-management-key-stage-1-year-1-year-2>

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/keystage2-ks2/ks2-class-management/school-closure-home-learning-classroom-management-key-stage-2-year-3-4-5-6>

To offer a showcase for pupils to upload their activities over these weeks to their school community, I am delighted to announce that we now have a school Twitter account **twitter.com/dunstan_st**

Please do use this sensibly and wisely. This is to be seen as a site to present the school in its best light and any negativity will lead to accounts being blocked.

Remember during these unprecedented times, home learning is not home schooling. We will continue to provide you with suggested activities but most importantly, we encourage you to spend quality moments, speaking and listening, having fun, building, making, creating, dismantling and sharing your time with one another. As I stressed before, should you choose to just do some shared/ independent reading, times-tables and spellings with your child during these weeks; this will stand them in good stead on their return to school- whenever that may be. Repetition of facts will lead to quicker retrieval!

We continue to pray daily for God's protection during these times.

Yours Sincerely

Mr McLoughlin
Deputy Head Teacher