## **The Coastal Federation**

**Bacton Primary, Mundesley Infant (SRB) and Junior Schools** 

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'together aspire, together achieve, together we are stronger...'

25th March 2020

## Dear Parents,

I thought I would just write a quick letter to keep you up-to-date with the current situation. The first thing is to say a huge thank you for supporting schools' role in looking after our critical key workers and vulnerable children by keeping your child at home - which is the best place for them to be.

The teachers report that children are enjoying their home learning - not sure some parents are but .....!) Please do not worry if getting your children to complete work is becoming a 'war of attrition' - we absolutely understand that normal home life is not-as-we-know-it. We will not be asking children to complete a test on their arrival back at school, to see how much they have learnt (although that would be interesting;)! If children are reading daily, attempting the work set and completing 'doing and making' activities then that is great - anything more is a bonus.

The online learning is also allowing some form of social contact with their teachers which has been good - we would encourage this. However, I have told the teachers that they should only respond between the hours of 9am to 3pm - it's lovely that children have been emailing at 10.15pm but that makes for a very long day! There will be NO 'lessons' during the Easter Holidays - by that point, all parents will be expert teachers and you can plan your own work ;) - NO...... will we ensure that there are some reference sheets with lots of fun activities to try out.

We are still awaiting guidance regarding the 53 children within The Federation who are in receipt of Free School Meals. The Government and Local Authority are working hard to come up with a voucher system. As you can appreciate - this crisis is throwing up daily challenges. In the meantime the school is trying to purchase £25 Sainsburys' Vouchers which we will be issuing if and when they arrive - this would equate to 10 school lunches.



We don't know when schools will be open as normal - we genuinely, only know things as and when you do - it's that reactive at the moment. Most of the communication from the Local Authority tends to arrive after 10pm. I'm sure things will settle down soon but I'm anticipating a long closure, potentially for the rest of this academic year. We are starting to think about contingency plans for new reception children who won't have had any pre-visits and Yr 2 children at MIS moving up to MJS - I'm not too concerned about that transition, as the children already have a strong link with the school. It is also unlikely that your children will receive an end of year report, bearing-in-mind that you have already received a half-year report.

I will write to you periodically, to keep you updated - otherwise, please continue to keep in contact via the email addresses in the letterhead. We would love to see what your children have been learning at home! Mr Hopkins and Miss Howett, alongside myself will pass on any messages to class teachers.

Keep safe and keep your children safer by staying indoors as much as you can, and follow the Government's advice.

Best wishes

**Simon Wakeman** 

**Executive Head**