

24th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope all our children and families are well, staying safe and coping with the lockdown. I'm sure all of you are experiencing good days and bad days. No matter how you are managing these difficult circumstances please be reassured that you are doing a great job and if you need any support please do contact us by email on info@alexandrapark.oldham.sch.uk , text us on 07786201169 or alternatively you can phone the school on 0161 770 8321.

Lots of families have now joined us on Twitter and it is wonderful to see how our children are getting on at home. Staff are also sharing videos of their lives in lockdown and this is a great way to stay connected. Thank you to Mr Clarke for his 'Beat the Teacher Challenges' and supporting the school community in staying connected.

Please do follow us **@Alexpark_sch**

How to talk to your child about what is happening

Children are very likely to be anxious during this time so it is important to talk to them about what is happening. This book is a great resource that can be shared and read together to help discuss any questions they may have.

<https://nosycrow.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Coronavirus-A-Book-for-Children.pdf>



Welfare Calls from Teachers



Teachers are continuing to ring children and their families, This is of course having a very positive impact on our families as they are being supported with information about accessing Free School Meal vouchers, directing families to food banks if needed, support for our most vulnerable children, support with Home learning and just simply a 'hello' from a teacher in school. Just a reminder that sometimes these calls will be from a withheld number as some members of staff are ringing from home themselves.

I would personally like to thank all our staff who are making these calls they have been amazing in supporting all our families they speak to.

Bereavement

It is with a heavy heart that we have heard from some of our families that they have lost loved ones. We have and are sending our thoughts, prayers and love to all those who have been affected. Bereavement is such a difficult time, even in normal circumstances. Staff are currently undertaking training to help support not only themselves but any of our families who they can help. I am directing parents to this video as this can help in supporting all our children. We can then further support our children when we return to school.

<https://www.childbereavementuk.org/coronavirus-supporting-children-through-difficult-times>

Home learning

Our Home learning page is being updated regularly and many extra links and resources have been added alongside our current online learning platform Study Ladder.

Please do visit the below link there are new Computer Science and coding activities, new White

Rose maths support (which shows how we teach maths in school), BBC bitesize for all year groups and ages, music activities and also a link for parents to access some online training to encourage raising resilience with your child/ren.

http://www.alexandrapark.oldham.sch.uk/?page_id=4678

There is no expectation to carry out all the activities, they are there if any more activities are required.

Teachers are also busily preparing paper packs in school and many families have welcomed these resources through the post as they have no access to the internet at home.

Free School Meals Vouchers

This system is now set up and families are grateful for the vouchers that are being sent via email. We thank the hard work and dedication of Miss Corry and Mrs Liddy for the time and resilience they have shown in getting the vouchers through the Edenred system.



Attached are the translated letters that have already been sent out.

Help with a timetable at home

If parents wish to access support in putting together a routine at home, please visit this website. A simple plan including these things will be as much as you can do.

https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/videos/EEF_Supporting_daily_routines_during_school_closures.mp4

Ramadan

The Islamic holy month of Ramadan has or will begin tonight for many of our families. This is a very important time in the Islamic calendar. We wish our children and their families a blessed and joyous Ramadan.



Supporting our Heroes

Thank you to the staff and children who made a school banner to show our support for all the NHS staff and Key workers who are our heroes during these difficult times. It also put a smile on the faces of all the community in the Abbey Hey Care Home.

