



Newsletter



Thursday 21st May, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been really fantastic to see so many of you dropping into school over the past few weeks to change your library books and to collect your next pack of home learning resources. We are going to continue to keep this going for the rest of the term after half term.



I am sure many of you are wondering whether school is going to open for Chaffinch Class, Heron Class and Skylark Class from 1st June. The government and the local authority have asked schools to carry out some very detailed risk assessments and to follow government advice and guidelines.

I am working through these documents systematically with staff to ensure we make the right decision for our school community!

Making History Please join in the National Portrait Gallery's project. The Duchess of Cambridge and the National Portrait Gallery invite you to submit your own photographic portrait, taken during these extraordinary times, which responds to one of the following themes:

**National
Portrait
Gallery**

- Helpers and Heroes
- Your New Normal
- Acts of Kindness

<https://www.npg.org.uk/hold-still/>



Tapestry It has been fantastic to see the things you are posting on your children's Tapestry accounts. It is a great way for class teachers and teaching assistants to support children's home learning and offer encouragement. ***Please be assured that only school adults with permission can see your child's account!*** Please keep posting! We are really encouraged by your children's home learning. Parents you are doing an amazing job: resourcing, adapting, encouraging and balancing this with all of the other things you are having to do whilst our children are at home!

During this period, we understand that for some our families their circumstances may change owing to 'lockdown'. Please have a look at the links in the section below!

Information about Free School Meals and how to apply If your circumstances have changed and you think your children may be eligible for free school meals, please check on the website below or contact the school office.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/>

We understand at this time there may be people in need of help. There is some information on West Sussex County Council's Website. Please have a look on the link below.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/supporting-local-communities/>

Foodbank Vouchers and Help At school we have a number of Foodbank Vouchers. If you are in need of help or you know someone who is in need of help, linked to the school, please contact the school office. Any enquiries will be treated confidentially.



*****We are committed to supporting the families of keyworkers and vulnerable families at Eastergate CE Primary School. I understand that there may be pressures on others to return to work as things progress and furloughing schemes end. Please contact school if you are in this situation. *****



An important message from West Sussex County Council

Keeping Children Safe. If you see something – say something. Help us protect the county's children. The

West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership is urging residents to help keep vulnerable children and their families safe by speaking up with any concerns. [Read the full story.](#)



Learning and Discovering Together at Home This week we have planned an '**Art Week**'. Our home learning packs have activities linked to art. We have tried to build on pack 3 – 'Science Week' on habitats and encouraging outdoor art activities, so everyone has access to things they can use to create their works of art! Please feel free to take your family learning in any direction you are able to using other resources you have at home or out and about! These packs are available to collect from school week days between 08:30 and 15.00 and are designed to last for this week and the week after half term (from 1st-5th June). If, for any reason, you are unable to collect the packs please contact the school office.

- Are you having difficulties printing things or accessing online resources? Please let us know and we will endeavour to help.
- Is your child having difficulties with their learning? Please contact your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your feedback regarding the home learning packs.



Collective Worship This term continuing our theme of Bible heroes we are looking at the story of Daniel. Daniel certainly faced some challenges in his life and stayed firm in his faith in God. There are activities linked to the story of Daniel in the home learning packs. I will continue to 'broadcast' Friday News Desk to update everyone with things that are happening in our school community.

Library Reminder! We are continuing our scheme to open the library to family groups after half term. If you would like to please book a slot on the Parents Evening section of **Parentmail** and change your child's reading books, please come in. The following measures will be put in place for everyone's safety:

- books that are returned to school will not be put back into circulation for at least 7 days after their return to school;
- families will be asked to wash/sanitize their hands before going into the library and when they leave school;
- social distancing will be in place between adults and children who are currently in school;
- slots are available between 9.30am-12.00pm and 1.00-2.30pm to enable us to manage social distancing at the beginning and end of the school day;
- there will be 5 minutes between slots to facilitate social distancing



Special Needs Mrs Pedder our special needs co-ordinator has also continued working with class teachers and may contact you if your child has an ILP to offer some additional support and advice.



**WIN
£5,000**

FOR YOUR SCHOOL'S LIBRARY



Win National Book Tokens for school You could win **£5,000/€5,000 of National Book Tokens for your school's library**, ready to spend when schools reopen – and if your entry is picked, **you'll also get £100/€120 of National Book Tokens to spend on yourself!**

Whether you work in a school or have school-aged children yourself, you'll know the importance of a good school library – and not just for learning. Studies show that reading for pleasure doesn't just give children an advantage academically; it can improve their wellbeing, too. Please follow this link to take part. <https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools>



School remains open during half term (except for Monday 25th, which is a Bank Holiday) for the children of keyworkers and vulnerable children and if your circumstance have changed over the past few weeks, please don't hesitate to contact us by phone 01243 542297 or email office@eastergate.w-sussex.sch.uk. The email address will be checked daily.

In the meantime stay at home, stay safe and we look forward to a time when we can come back together – whenever that might be!

Best wishes,

CM Ward

Catherine Ward
Headteacher