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*A voluntary convertor Academy and the founder of:*



Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Dear parents and carers

I do hope you have all had a restful and peaceful Easter break and you have had the opportunity to spend precious time together as a family. On what should be the beginning of our summer term in school, it is timely for me to update you all.

As many of you will know from the Secretary of State, Gavin Williamson's announcement, school closure will be in effect at least for the next three weeks. Given this announcement, the staff at school have been busy planning for this during the Easter break.

### **Free School Meal Vouchers**

All children in receipt of free school meals should now be receiving a voucher from Edenred for £15.00 per child; this voucher can be spent in a number of different supermarkets. Please do check your junk or spam emails. This voucher will be sent out weekly during school closure. You must have applied and been accepted for free school meals by Cheshire East. If you think you are eligible and have not yet applied, please do so via the following link [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free\\_school\\_meals.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free_school_meals.aspx). If you are eligible, Cheshire East will let us know and we can add your child to the list for receipt of the voucher.

### **Home Learning**

Teaching staff will continue to communicate with children on the class twitter pages; however in addition to the home learning packs distributed towards the end of the spring term, resources are now available on the school website.

Work for each year group will be uploaded onto the school website every Sunday evening under 'Our Learning'/ 'Home Learning Resources' <https://www.ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk/page/?title=Home+Learning+Resources&pid=94>

Your child's class page can be found on the list down the right-hand side of the page. Staff will upload activities for spellings, reading, literacy and maths, as well as work for two wider curriculum subjects each week. There will be additional links, challenges and ideas for your child to explore if they wish to extend their learning further.

There is no timetable for your child – the work can be completed on any day and at whatever time works best for you and for them. We recognise that although over 95% of those, who responded to the home learning survey, stated that you have internet access and a laptop or tablet, you may well be sharing this amongst other family members.

Children with special educational needs will receive a bespoke programme of activities and either Mrs Sherratt, Mrs Roberts or Mrs Lisle will be in touch with you directly.

Each class now has their own email address (see below). Any completed work can be attached – as a document or as a photograph – and the class teacher will check and respond accordingly. The only exception to this is the maths work, where teachers will upload the answers for the week on Friday, allowing the children to self-check and mark their own work.

To upload completed work and to receive feedback from teachers, the class email addresses are as follows:

[nursery@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:nursery@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk)  
[reception@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:reception@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk)  
[year1@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:year1@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk)  
[year2@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:year2@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk)  
[year3@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:year3@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk)  
[year4@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:year4@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk)  
[year5@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:year5@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk)  
[year6@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:year6@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk)



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It is important to point out that we are very aware of the challenges this may present to you as families and we recognise you may at times feel overwhelmed. Our main priority above all else is to ensure that our entire school community feel safe, feel supported and above all else, feel calm. Home learning is something, which is new to us all. The last thing we want is for anyone to feel stressed or anxious. You must prioritise the health and wellbeing of your families. Mrs Veale has collated some fantastic resources to help with this on the following link

<https://www.ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk/page/?title=Wellbeing+and+Safeguarding+Support+during+Home+Learning&pid=92>

As always, we are here to support you and if you have any worries or concerns, feel free to contact your class teacher using the email addresses above or directly to the school office on [admin@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk) or to me personally on [principal@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:principal@ashgrove.cheshire.sch.uk).

In addition, the Department of Education has provided guidance on how parents can manage and support with home learning.

[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm\\_source=b0838257-848b-4d77-b72f-37767d087fd1&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=b0838257-848b-4d77-b72f-37767d087fd1&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

### **E-safety**

As we migrate to online learning, never has it been more important to protect our children's safety and wellbeing online. Please do make use of the following resources which given guidance to parents on keeping children safe online

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

### **Digital Devices**

We also understand that to support home learning, funding may become available to purchase digital devices for some of our pupils. Further information is expected in the coming days. Please refer to this link.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-major-package-to-support-online-learning?utm\\_source=4e85bd97-1e30-4780-b15f-f697e7553dea&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-major-package-to-support-online-learning?utm_source=4e85bd97-1e30-4780-b15f-f697e7553dea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

### **Refunds**

The office staff are working extremely hard to ensure that all refunds are made in a timely manner. We have prioritised the Madrid and London residential trips and then subsequently we will work through issuing refunds for all other class trips. Refunds through parent pay are straightforward but for those who paid cash, we may need to issue a bank transfer. I am very grateful for your patience with this given it is a massive task but we have made it a priority and we hope to have the majority of refunds made by the end of this week.

And finally, I just want to thank you all sincerely for your support. The Ash Grove team have worked tirelessly throughout the Easter holiday either to ensure school remains open for our most vulnerable pupils or for those whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response; to collate manageable home learning resources bespoke and well-matched to our children and our community and to stay in touch by telephone or home visit with our families. I have received some heart-felt emails full of gratitude and compassion, which I have shared with staff. It is those emails, which have kept us positive and determined to do our very best for you all. We miss your children but we know they are in safe hands. Thank you for being there for us and we will always be there for you.

Best wishes

Mrs Finnegan



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