

Dear Parents and Carers,

It certainly has been a strange few weeks, but hopefully you have been out in the garden enjoying the sunshine and have managed to enjoy a few Easter eggs too! I hope that you also saw the Easter message from Team Donisthorpe on Facebook/Twitter it made us all smile putting it together and hopefully it put a smile on your faces too!

In last night's government briefing, Dominic Raab announced that the lockdown would continue for another three weeks, until at least Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May. So for the foreseeable future, things will stay as they have been with school opening only for the children of critical workers/vulnerable children. **The message**

**remains that if you can keep your children at home you should...home is the safest place for them to be.**

## Home Learning

Please try not to be too concerned about children having difficulty with some aspects of the home learning work that has been set by teachers, please do not try to complete work that is worrying your children (or you!). I know it can be frustrating when you feel like you've spent a long time on something and your children still don't seem to understand, but without teachers and support staff, there are some concepts that they will struggle with and possibly fail to complete. Without us being able to talk to your children directly and explore their thinking, it is hard for us to advise individual parents on the needs of individual children.

If we were working under 'normal' conditions, at school we would be using the 'little and often' approach and going over the same thing but in lots of different, fun and practical ways. Remember this is not 'home schooling'; this is an opportunity for the children to practise and consolidate prior learning...you need to take each day as it comes and just do your best!

If your child is finding concentrating hard, try something completely different, there are lots of suggestions on our website, maybe try completing the Covid-19 Time Capsule? If their mind wanders to other things that are unrelated to the work that is fine, there is no expectation from the class teachers to complete all of the work set.

If your child is struggling, dip into the year group below, or if you think that they need more of a challenge, look at the year group above. If you are struggling with a concept in maths try, [www.whiterosemaths.com/homelearning](http://www.whiterosemaths.com/homelearning) it has actual lessons to watch that follow our



curriculum. For further support and fun ideas, Twinkl are providing free access to parents during school closure. You can find more information and sign up at [www.twinkl.co.uk/offer](http://www.twinkl.co.uk/offer)

In addition, starting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, the BBC will offer daily programmes to help parents and children with schoolwork at home during the lockdown. There will be videos, quizzes, podcasts and articles that will appear on BBC Bitesize Daily via the BBC iPlayer, red button, BBC Four and BBC Sounds.

If you need to contact us during the closure please use the [slt@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk](mailto:slt@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk) email address. We are checking this daily.

Remember, stay safe and stay at home.

Regards,



Sylvie Newman  
Executive Headteacher

**CHILD CARE PROVISION FOR CRITICAL WORKERS/ VULNERABLE CHILDREN ONLY-  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

**The government have been very clear in their advice that the safest place for all people, including children, is at home where their social interaction/contact is limited.**

- **Child care provision for critical workers/vulnerable children only will be open between 8.45am and 3.10pm**
- **You must have completed a registration form before your child can attend**
- **Please note that the school kitchen is now CLOSED. If your children are attending childcare at Donisthorpe they will need to bring a healthy snack, drink and packed lunch.**

**Please email [slt@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk](mailto:slt@donisthorpe.leics.sch.uk) with details of shift patterns and childcare requirements so that decisions on staffing can be finalised.**