

Newsletter

Dear All,

This will be my last weekly newsletter for a while in this format. I cannot thank you enough for all the support you have given me since I started in this role. It has been a pleasure and an honour to work with you and your children. THIS IS NOT GOING TO STOP!! We will continue to support your children even though this may be at a distance for some time. I am still available by email (although depending on how many emails I get it may take a while to respond) and class teachers will be in touch with you and your children.

At the moment we are experiencing unusual circumstances that we as a Nation (in fact the world) have never encountered before. We are trying our best, even though we were only given two days' notice to find and plan workable solutions for 460 children. The staff at Finham Primary have been brilliant, volunteering to come into school to support learning for the most vulnerable and key worker children, while at the same time planning for children who will be at home.

Please bear with us while we do our best to fathom new ways of working to support the future learning of all children at Finham Primary School.

Children will be receiving work through FROG and Century Tech in KS2. There are activities to be completed on the main page of Frog as well as in individual Year Group areas.

Members of staff will be responding to children as and when they feel it is appropriate. Unfortunately they will not be able to comment on each individual piece of work. Staff will be updating the work on Frog on a weekly basis.

Please spend time with your families, reading, telling stories, making things, playing games, cooking, eating together and just enjoying one another's company.

"Something very beautiful happens to people when their world has fallen apart: a humility, a nobility, a higher intelligence emerges at just the point when our knees hit the floor."

Marianne Williamson

Take care of yourselves, your loved ones and one another.

Yours Faithfully

Sarah Bracken

Headteacher Finham Primary School

DINNER MONEY

Please could you ensure that all Dinner money debts are paid by today. Many thanks for your assistance in this matter.

DUDLEY CANAL TRUST – YEAR 1 – 31ST MARCH 2020

Unfortunately, due to the current circumstance the Year 1 trip to Dudley Canal has been postponed. At present we will not be refunding back any money because we are hoping to re book another date in the future, we will keep you posted. Many thanks Year 1 Teachers

SCHOOL GATEWAY

Finham Primary School are now using School Gateway to communicate with Parents via Text and Email. Please click on the following link if you have not already done so to set up; <https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login>
If you could download the School Gateway App this will be the most beneficial to the school. Once you have downloaded the app, you will be sent a pin number to set up your account.

Please ensure that you use the email address and Mobile Phone that you have given to school.

We went live with this system on 9th March, therefore please ensure you have set up your account, as unfortunately you will not receive any emails or texts from us.

GO KIDZ

Yesterday's school closure announcement has taken many people by surprise and with grandparents classed as vulnerable, childcare will become an issue. For over 20 years, CV Life centres have organised affordable holiday time activities for the local community. This is obviously an extraordinary time and as charitable local provider, we are keen to not make a 'profiteer' on the back of the challenging and distressing time that we are all facing.

Some pupils will still be in school but clearly the majority won't be and finding safe, meaningful and enjoyable daytime activities will be adding to the worry and stress of parents/carers. We have chosen to provide a daytime offer across the next few weeks, the programme starts on Monday 23 March. The delivery will be at The Alan Higgs Centre, The Xcel Leisure Centre and Centre AT7. We have trimmed the cost to the minimum with the offer less than £2.00 per hour and cheaper for families with a Blue Light Card and with siblings. The offer also includes a light breakfast and dedicated time for core subjects and project work. We have fully risk assessed and reduced staff: children to 1:8 ratios to allow for safer distancing during delivery and social time. Full details are on the attached flyer.

STIVICHALL AND FINHAM EMPOWER COMMUNITY BUDDY GROUP (Covid-19) (also attached poster)

We are a trusted network of volunteers covering the Stivichall, Finham and Wainbody areas. We are here to help those in need during the Coronavirus crisis, whilst keeping ourselves and others safe. Our aim is to build a more connected community by acting with positivity and humanity, rather than panic, fear and distrust.

We have over 100 volunteers, all happy to help elderly and/or vulnerable residents with any practical assistance such as errands etc., especially those who perhaps live alone.

We can also be a friendly voice at the end of the telephone, for people feeling socially isolated and in need of a chat (although we are not trained counsellors.)

St. Martin's Church, St James's Church, Councillor Mattie Heaven, Parish Councillor Angela Fryer, Neighbourhood Watch and Finham Library endorse our organisation, amongst others. We have the necessary protocols in place such as a Code of Conduct, ID checks, Transaction Records for shopping deliveries, and a GDPR policy (drawn up by a lawyer who is part of our volunteer team.)

Your support would be much appreciated in terms of endorsing us and passing this info on to people who may benefit. Even if practical assistance isn't required, just the reassurance that our community is supporting each other may help reduce feelings of anxiety and social isolation.

Our FB group is: **Styvechale and Finham Empower Community buddy group (covid-19)**

You are most welcome to join the above FB group, which now has over 500 members since being created by Lisa on Saturday. Our intention is to reassure and assist where possible, and absolutely not to increase fear or raise anxiety levels. Any inappropriate or unhelpful posts (scaremongering etc.) are swiftly removed.