

# Newsletter

Dear Parents

We would like to wish all of our children, parents and carers in our school community a happy and healthy Easter.

I hope you and your family are keeping well and adjusting to the current way of living. One of the things I hope to achieve by continuing to send the newsletter out is to give children and parents a way of feeling that they are still part of the school community even if they are confined to their homes.

These last few weeks have been very challenging for us all and as we all adjust to lockdown, social distancing and self-isolation, it is more important than ever that we all continue to support each other. It is very different in school as we have a changing daily picture. These last three weeks have presented many challenges - as we know many of you are working from home as well as balancing the home-schooling tasks. Thank you to you all for doing what you can to help your child learn. I have been looking at the pictures that have been uploaded on Frog. There are lots of examples of children having fun with the activities and proudly showing off what they have learned, well done to all the children.

I think it is important to acknowledge that children being at home presents all sorts of challenges and many parents have conflicting demands on their time, The smiling faces and beautiful work seen in the pictures will not be completely representative of everyone's home school experience and I am aware that an unintended consequence of the photos is that we ignore the reality of home schooling— tantrums, issues with technology, lack of stationary and multiple demands on parents' time. I hope the photos give people a chance to see what others are doing and in particular allow children to see a little of their friends. However, no one should feel inadequate if they have found home schooling difficult. If this is the case, you are not alone, all children can be difficult at times. Please contact school if you require any support.

Over Easter we are feel your children need a break from their home learning. We are adding fun Easter activities for you to complete on the Finham Primary Frog pages and for all children in Finham Park MAT through the MAT Connect page on Frog:

<https://finhammat-coventry.frogos.net/app/os?site=family>

If you are not managing many tasks at home at the moment please can I encourage you to keep on top of reading. Reading with and to your child is vital to help support their learning.

The Schools Library Service have provided a virtual Reading Club for all Coventry children to be able to access.

The virtual reading club gives children an opportunity to submit book reviews and take part in mini challenges. There is a rolling program of mini challenges over the next couple of months to keep it fresh. The first 2 are a mini Easter Reading challenge where the children are asked to read and review 3 books and also an illustration challenge where children can create their own book character and submit it to win a prize. It also has downloads to support parents in encouraging reading for pleasure at home, links to free reading resources and a Book doctor (where you can contact our specialist librarians for advice on what to read next).

You can find all of this linked from our home page [www.coventry.gov.uk/sls](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/sls)  
Or follow this link to the specific page [www.coventry.gov.uk/slsreadingclub](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/slsreadingclub)

I hope this is helpful to you as another way to encourage children to keep reading for pleasure at home as we all know how important it is that reading doesn't drop off too much during this very difficult time.

After the Easter holidays there will be more updates for every year group – so please keep on checking Frog as it is regularly reviewed.

Thank you all for your continued support at this challenging time,  
Sarah Bracken

An important note from Mr Reed:

During the nation's lockdown, children will be potentially accessing technology more. It is great for keeping in touch with friends and family. Plus many of us would be lost without connection to the internet, whether for work or pleasure. We just want to remind you to follow some of the guide lines around E-Safety.

- Monitor what your children are using the technology for. Are they staying on sites that you know about or have they managed to get onto a site (accidentally or deliberately) which they shouldn't be on.
- Keep an open line of communication with your children. Make them aware that they can come to you if they have an issue or question. They won't get in trouble for telling you they have seen something which makes them uncomfortable.
- Ask your children how they are and how their friends are? It may be a child has received a message from a friend or peer which has upset them and they don't know how to deal with it. Cyber bullying is a greater threat if all their communications to friends is going through technology.
- Being isolated from friends can create a perfect situation for children to want to reach out for online friendship. Make sure they are **only** talking to people they already know and never meet up with strangers online.
- Keep password protections on, on the technology children have access to. They can access online stores and be downloading apps or in-game ad-ons easily which can create a large bill at the end of the month. Passwords will help reduce this risk but not eliminate it.
- Any videos, on internet sites, have been vetted by an adult before a child watches them. There are some videos on YouTube and other sites which may have harmful content added in secretly by malicious parties. If you've vetted the videos first then there's less chance children will be subjected to harmful content.

There are many more threats online but with these helpful parental reminders and the internet safety program for children at Finham Primary, everyone should be able to enjoy the benefits of the internet safely.

## **CONTACT**

Over the coming weeks you may receive emails or telephone calls from a member of staff at Finham primary, these phone calls/emails are our way of checking in with you and your children. It's our way of showing that we care and that Finham primary School are here for you. Please ensure that your contact details are up to date.

Part of our job is being here for you and your children; celebrating greatness and offering you support and guidance when you need it. Frog has an area which offers guidance and support for you and your families. This can be found under the Finham Families banner on Frog and then an array of support and advice can be found under the HELP for Finham families tab in the Office area.

To help us to help you, please can ALL Parents/Guardians support their child in completing this week's check in form? You will find a link to it in your child's Frog classroom, just like last week 😊 Please note, if you don't complete the form, the school will need to contact you to make sure that everything is OK. This is a responsibility passed down to us from Coventry Local Authority.

If you are having any difficulty accessing Frog, please contact [c.lomax@finhamprimary.co.uk](mailto:c.lomax@finhamprimary.co.uk)

## **FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

**Did you know that Schools can now provide families with a weekly shopping voucher worth £15 for every eligible child to spend at supermarkets on food.**

Even if they are no longer attending school due to the coronavirus outbreak. Children eligible for free school meals can now benefit from a national government voucher scheme allowing them to continue to access meals whilst they stay at home.

We are working very hard to ensure that all children entitled to Free School meals are able to access them.

### **Are your children eligible?**

Free school meals are available to children of families who are in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Jobseekers Allowance (income based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (income based)
- Guarantee Credit (the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit)
- Universal Credit (UC) if the total net **earned** income is under £7,400 per year
- Support under part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, **provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit** and have a **total** annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190

All you need to do is follow this link and complete the form

[https://myaccount.coventry.gov.uk/en/service/Free\\_school\\_meals\\_and\\_extra\\_pupil\\_premium\\_funds\\_for\\_schools](https://myaccount.coventry.gov.uk/en/service/Free_school_meals_and_extra_pupil_premium_funds_for_schools)

Any child who becomes eligible for a free school meal between now and 31 March 2022 will remain entitled to a free school meal regardless of any change in parental income until they finish the phase of education they are in March 2022.

Once you have applied please ring school or email Mrs Schofield; [h.schofield@finhampriamry.co.uk](mailto:h.schofield@finhampriamry.co.uk), When the application has been successfully processed by the council, the school will be informed and your child/children will be able to receive their vouchers.