



Merley First School

Oakley Straight, Merley, Wimborne, BH21 1SD
office@merleyfirstschool.net www.merleyfirstschool.com

Tel: 01202 888455

Headteacher: Katharine Anstey mrs.anstey@merleyfirstschool.net

Good Morning,

Thank you to those key workers and those with vulnerable children, who have notified us that they will need our support during school closure. I have provided separate information to outline the arrangements over the coming weeks. If you have not received this, then you are not on our list and we are not expecting to see your child in school. If you believe that this is a mistake then please email office@merleyfirstschool.net **before** bringing your child to school. We will not be permitting any children into school who we have not given prior agreement to.

For those of you preparing to teach your child from home, your class teacher has sent home their home learning book with activities for you to choose. There are also many suggested online apps and login's in their book.

On the website class pages are also links to heart smart ideas. Please keep using the heartsmart language with your child, it will really help them with keeping a link with school. Some Heart smart video's are being made which we can direct you to once they are live.

Also on the website is our Merley learners behaviour code. Please use this language with the children, as it is very familiar to them.

How home learning will work for you and your child is totally up to you. Some children may prefer structure and routine and therefore following a timetable may prove helpful; others may prefer more flexibility. Try and create a structure for your day that fits around your other commitments.

Please note that teachers will not have the capacity to mark work on return to school, as their focus will be on planning for being back and marking the work done once normality resumes. Please do not dismiss home learning because we will not have the capacity to look at it - your children need to be doing something to retain their learning and to keep busy.

Also, please do try to get your children out into the fresh air each day and undertake regular exercise.

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We all need to be mindful of the wellbeing of our children, but also that of you, of our families. Being at home looking after your children and for some of you trying to work remotely, will put huge strains on relationships. Many of our staff will be in a similar situation. We do not want our children to be in front of a screen all day, and we will factor this into all of the work provision we provide. Some of the work set will be based on doing an activity. This may be a science activity that requires you to do a bit of 'kitchen science' with items generally available in every family kitchen. Please don't worry about completing every task set if you don't have access to a printer, or are missing a resource.

Teachers will be available during school hours on their work email but please be mindful that teachers are also working on a rota to be in school and may not be able to reply quickly. However, we will all do our very best to get back to you as soon as we can.

Take care, keep well all of you, and I sincerely hope that it is not too long until we can all meet again at school.

Warm regards,

Katharine Anstey
Head teacher