

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update 23rd March

Firstly, can I say thank you to you all for bearing with us in these difficult times. We have had to put plans in place in a very short space of time and your cooperation has been much appreciated. Evidence from our trust schools today shows us that the vast majority of our pupils are at home. School remains open though to the parents of key workers and vulnerable pupils. Thank you for recognising that your children are safer at home and for considering the safety of staff.

We obviously want everyone to remain as safe and as healthy as possible during this time. With this in mind please remember that everyone needs to be washing their hands regularly. Research has shown that the virus survives on materials. For example, it remains on plastic for 4 days and paper or metal for 3 days hence the importance of hand washing regularly. In the event of coming into contact with a material which has been touched by someone who has the virus it could easily be spread if hand hygiene is not maintained.

We appreciate the difficulties of minimising boredom for children stuck in doors but under the present conditions we strongly support the message of keeping children at home and away from socialising with peers. It is alarming to hear that many of our pupils are out and about socialising with each other. If schools have been shut it's in an effort to reduce the spread of the virus but this won't happen if younger people continue to go out and meet each other. They must stay at home to keep safe even if that means boredom! People of ALL ages are dying! Yesterday an 18 year old died from the virus, he had no underlying conditions. It is also important to remember that we must also keep the children safe whilst they are online. The website www.nationalonlinesafety.com can give parents lots of advice on this.

Whilst the children are at home, doing some sort of exercise each day is important particularly if families do not have a garden. Joe Wicks, the Body Coach, is sharing a 30 minute session on line every day starting at 9am. This will help get the children up and ready for the day ahead.

It is vital that children do some work from home. Staff have sent work home along with an exercise book to complete it in. They are also regularly uploading work to the home learning section of the school website. <http://www.sflt.org.uk/chantry/academic/home-learning-students/>

This is easy to access and instructions on how to do this were shared on social media and with the children. We will expect to see evidence of home learning in the exercise books the children were given when they return to school.

Please remember we are here to help. You can contact us by ringing the school office on 01474 350011 or by using the email address office@chantry.kent.sch.uk so although we can't see each other face to face we are more than happy to support virtually!

Mrs Woodroof.