



**THE STONEHENGE SCHOOL**  
NDR/CAD/dah

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/carers

### **Re: Easter holidays**

We hope all of you are keeping well. We appreciate how worrying the current situation will be and appreciate all of your efforts to keep your children safe during these uncertain times.

As you will be aware, since the announcement of school closures we have been operating on a skeleton staff to accommodate the children who still need to come to school. All staff who are able to work (based on being vulnerable themselves, or in self-isolation, etc) are working throughout the Easter holiday to keep this provision going in safe rotational teams.

If your child has an EHCP, has a current social worker or is a Looked After Child, or if you are a key worker, we are offering supervised care from 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday, continuing through the Easter holiday. Please email [admin@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk) to book a place if you have not already done so.

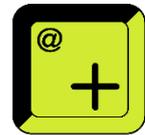
### **Distance learning**

We hope that you have been receiving plenty of work to support students with their studies, and I would like to say thank you to parents and carers for all that you have been doing to keep learning going during this time. We know that everybody is doing their best; please do not worry if everything is not complete each day. These are tough times and we understand the different pressures that each family faces with younger children, work commitments, and dealing with self-isolation for example. We will continue to do our best to send work and support, but know that there are many ways to learn new skills.

### **Use of Show My Homework**

During usual term time, teachers have been directed to use Show My Homework to set work in accordance with the 'normal' school timetable. We are trying to get the balance between setting enough work to keep the curriculum going, and giving students plenty to do, but we are also aware that for some this is becoming difficult to keep up with. We are trying to use dates in the titles for the work, and set deadlines so that Show My Homework stays organised and so that tasks do not disappear down the list. It is also worth noting that Show My Homework has an automatic response to show that work is

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#### **Headteacher**

Mr. N. D. Roper B.Sc., NPQH

#### **School Business Manager**

Mrs. C. Busby B.A. (Hons), ADSBM



not completed. It is worth ignoring this if work is being submitted in another way, but to remember that it isn't the teacher who is manually filling this in.

### Some useful tips

These tips may help if you and your young ones are feeling overwhelmed:

- Concentrate efforts on core subjects. Complete the work set in Maths, English and Science if following the five lesson a day schedule feels like too much, especially in Key Stage 3.
- This can also be achieved by using Tassomai each day to complete daily goals (Year 7, 8 and 9 have access for English, Maths and Science), and Year 10 can complete the Science modules.
- Use Bedrock lessons to keep vocabulary building in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 – this will really help students to deal with all subjects when we return to school.
- Put some time aside each day for silent reading or listening to an audiobook – Audible are currently offering free content and we are using our Reading@stonehenge Twitter feed to give recommendations. Reading on a daily basis has a huge impact on future progress in all subjects.
- Create a routine that works for you all in the circumstances. This may include creating a timetable for the day, or using other times like weekends to complete some work instead.
- See the attached 'CCO Children's guide to coronavirus' document that can be used to explain what is happening to students at the moment, plus there are links to the daily Joe Wicks lesson, Audible content (including David Walliam's daily tale), and other links that may feed their interests

### Easter break

As we approach what would have been the Easter break, students will not be set work according to their lesson schedule. There will be Easter holiday homework set on Show My Homework, in the usual way we would set it, but we also understand that the Easter break is a time for families to do things less formally. 'Teaching' will resume when we would normally return on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

### Year 11 exams

We are still waiting for detailed information from Ofqual and the exam boards on how this year's GCSE grades will be awarded, but will update you on this once we have had further clarification. We will be loading some booklets on to Show My Homework for Year 11 students soon, especially so that you can avoid a gap in learning occurring between now and the start of future courses.

### Further support

We are constantly adding updates of information to this link on our website, including information on how students can access their school email accounts, and safeguarding information: <https://www.stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk/news/coronavirus-updates/>  
Kooth online counselling supports young people at difficult times: <https://www.kooth.com/>  
and the 'onyourmind' website is building resources to support the mental health of school children: <https://www.onyourmind.org.uk/>

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy Easter. And please pass our best wishes on to all of our students. We all miss being in the school environment very much.

The Leadership Team  
The Stonehenge School

