



UNSWORTH ACADEMY



2nd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and managing to cope with all the various challenges that we are having to face as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. I am writing to you from my office in school, and I have never ever known any school to be so quiet! We do have a staff rota to ensure we are open to support a small number of identified children including children of NHS and other keyworkers, but the noise they make is nothing compared to the hustle and bustle of a normal school day! And I must just say that all our staff have been absolutely fantastic in supporting this rota.

Contacting School -In order to minimise staff in school and support social distancing, the school office and phone line are now closed. If you do need to contact us then please do so via e-mail to information@unsworth.shaw-education.org.uk.

Learning from home -I would like to send out a huge thankyou to all the parents and carers who are doing their best to support on- line learning from home. Engagement is high and the vast majority of learners are responding well to this new way of learning.

Please note: Teachers will not be setting work for Friday 3rd April -as this was a planned teacher training day. Neither will teachers be setting work for the planned two week Easter break – which is from Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April. However, some teachers may send work through over the Easter break, which is to be completed during the two weeks AFTER this holiday period. This is because we are staggering our teachers' holiday period to keep the school open – with some teachers taking the “normal” Easter holidays, and others taking the following two weeks – from 20th April to 1st May. So please check the dates the work is set for.

Please e-mail smhw@unsworth.shaw-education.org.uk if you have any queries regarding on line learning.

Easter Holidays

During holiday time, sticking to a routine is really important to help your child manage their way through uncertainty. I have put a number of links and ideas at the end of this section which we hope you will find useful over the next two weeks. Do try to find time to relax and have fun as a family, but also consider supporting your child to take up a new hobby, research an area they are interested in or just to read a book or play a game. It is a good idea for your child to make the distinction between “school time” and “free time” in this new world we currently live in, so please ensure you child

Mrs S Armstrong **Academy Principal**

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understands the need to **return to their home-school routine on Monday 20th April, 2020** when their lessons will be waiting for them.

Helpful Links: Usually paid-for things which are currently free:

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/team-blog/2020/03/paidfor-things-they-ve-made-free-boxsets--audiobooks--fitness-c/>

Explore the planet mars at: <http://www.kids2.space/>

The Scouts have produced "The Great Indoors" Activities:

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/>

Roald Dahl activities: <https://www.roalddahl.com/things-to-do-indoors>

20 apps for stir crazy kids:

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/mar/29/learning-apps-for-stir-crazy-kidswhile-schools-are-closed>

Unsworth's Proud- We know our learners are a very talented bunch who are doing amazing things whilst leaning at home. To celebrate this we are very excited to launch **Unsworth's Proud**. E mail us with pictures of what you have done that you are proud of and we will share with our wider community via twitter. This could be a piece of work, a meal or a new skill developed - whatever makes you proud. E- mail us at proud@unsworth.shaw-education.org.uk. A big thankyou to Mr Lamb for organising this for us.

Safeguarding -Unsworth staff are committed to supporting the safety of all our learners during this difficult time. Our school based Safeguarding support will remain in place throughout the school closure period. Please refer to my letter on the school website dated Friday 20th March or the Safeguarding Zone for all our Safeguarding contact details and a list of National agencies who can support learners and families as well. Gov.UK have also published: Guidance for parents and carers: keeping children safe online.

They have updated their information for parents and carers to include a section on keeping children safe online. It provides links to online resources that will help support parents and carers in keeping their children safe online.

Full details can be found in section 6.3 of the guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings:

• <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

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Foodbank for Free School Meal Learners

Shaw Education Trust is funding a small food bank on our site for FSM learners and their families. Eligible families have been contacted via e mail and text as to how to access this additional support.

Wishing you all a very safe and happy Easter. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you feel you need to do so, and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'S Armstrong'.

Mrs S Armstrong
Academy Principal

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