

TOGETHER

THE ACRE HALL NEWSLETTER



Website: www.acrehall.trafford.sch.uk

Friday 17th April 2020

Twitter: @AcreHall

Email: admin@acrehall.trafford.sch.uk

Phone: 0161 748 4356 - our school office is manned from 8.30am to 3.30 pm—Mon to Friday—during this closure period.

Please do get in touch if you require any help or would like to tell us something.

Update

School remains closed to pupils apart from those with parents classed as 'Key Workers' and children classed as 'Vulnerable Pupils'. The latest government guidance outlines the pupils this applies to—please follow the links below if you require further information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

We are able to provide emergency child care for pupils who are included in the definitions above. Please contact school if you need this service. We have been tasked with reducing the number of staff in school on a daily basis in order to reduce risk of possible transmission of the coronavirus. Therefore school staff continue to split their working week between supervision days at school; working from home to prepare online tasks for their pupils; completing on line further training for a range of safeguarding and professional courses ; making calls to pupils in their class to 'keep in touch'.

Free School Meals

There are 2 versions of free school meal entitlement that children can receive. They are;

- 1) Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) that are available for all children in school from starting school in reception to the end of year 2. This is funded by the government and is given to everyone regardless of income. The school receives the money directly from the government. Some parents choose to take this and their child has a school dinner whilst others choose not to take it and send a packed lunch with their child instead.
- 2) Free School Meals (FSM) that parents have applied for. This is a 'means tested' benefit and is given to parents on low incomes and those who are in receipt of certain benefits. You have to apply via the Trafford website for this but it is a very easy process and gives an instant decision. All you need to do is input your National Insurance Number and details - see link below.

<https://www.trafford.gov.uk/residents/schools/trafford-catering/free-school-meals.aspx>

If you apply and you are eligible for it, school is sent a notification telling us and then your child is added to our FSM list. That means that for the period of his/her time in primary school (you have to reapply for secondary school) he/she can have FSM if you wish your child to have a school meal. If your child qualifies for FSM they are also entitled to additional funding which school receives - this is called 'Pupil Premium' funding and it means that breakfast club and certain school trips can be free for your child. Due to the current school closures we are issuing e-vouchers to children who are eligible for FSM but are not in school and able to claim them. We can only give vouchers to parents if their child is entitled to FSM. It does not apply to UIFSM. That is the government's rule.

We are sending e - vouchers for £15 per child per week whilst school is closed. For families who applied and qualified for FSM we sent vouchers before the holiday which we paid for and will claim the money back from the govt but now the govt have set up their own scheme and we are encouraged to use that. We have to order the e—vouchers online then send them out to parents via email. Many of you will have seen on the national news that there are some 'teething troubles' with this system. We have completed our part of the process and have been waiting for the provider—Edenred—to provide the codes. We appreciate that this is not helpful for parents but are doing all that we can to get the vouchers to parents as soon as possible. Due to the way the system works we can only order e—vouchers in multiples of £10 so parents should be aware that amounts given may vary slightly from week to week but will always 'catch up'.

Please note that there are various scams around at present asking parents for bank details so FSM money can be paid directly—this is not what we will do. Please do not respond to any such emails/text messages.

Update Continued

Winmarleigh Hall Visit

For a number of years our Year 6 pupils have enjoyed a residential visit to Winmarleigh Hall—an outdoor activity centre run by PGL— at the end of May. Due to current ‘lock down’ restrictions , difficulties around social distancing guidelines when children are sharing dormitories and the possibility of pupil/staff illness or absence due to self isolating , it is prudent to cancel the visit. We do not do this lightly; a survey was sent out to parents of pupils who had booked places in order to gain their views. Over 85% of the 19 responses received chose to cancel the visit. The survey has now closed and we will contact PGL to inform them of our decision and go through the process of applying for refunds. We will get this money back to parents as soon as possible. We understand how upset our year 6 pupils will be. We are hopeful that if lockdown measures are lifted and schools are able to return before the Summer holiday, we can book a day activity for the children instead.

Government Advice and Information

The government has created a document to assist parents/carers in home education. There are some useful resources but many of them have already been shared with parents by class teachers. Follow the link below for more information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

The Trafford website also has some useful resources for parents and children—see link below.

https://www.trafforddirectory.co.uk/kb5/trafford/fsd/advice.page?id=x_MYeV2IP4Q

Safeguarding on the internet

At this time when children may be using various online platforms for learning, safety whilst using the internet is paramount. The link below gives some useful information.

<https://coronavirus.lgfl.net/safeguarding>

Pupil Well Being

This is clearly a troubling time for everyone especially our pupils ; children are faced with not seeing their friends or extended family members. The websites below give some useful advice—the newsround website is perhaps helpful for ‘child friendly’ news.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround#more-stories-2>

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/talking-to-your-children-scary-world-news.pdf>

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/coronavirus-wellbeing-activity-ideas-for-families/>

Home Learning—From Monday 20th April the BBC will be running various programmes for children—see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Over the last few weeks teachers have sent class newsletters to their pupils to indicate suitable home learning activities. Prior to this, and just before we closed, some teachers were able to send home worksheet packs for their pupils. We can not send out or provide any more paper packs. In order to reduce the amount of people coming in and out of school please do not call in to ask for these. We will not be able to provide them.

As a school, we are moving all home learning on to ‘Seesaw’ from week beginning 20/04/20. Seesaw is a safe, educational online learning platform, where all of your child’s work can be accessed. This can be done from a computer, tablet or mobile. On seesaw, your child can complete work and send it back to the teacher for marking, without needing to print it off. They can also take pictures of anything else they have been doing at home to share with their teacher. All of their work will be stored in their ‘journal’ on the app. They can also message their teacher directly to help them. Class teachers will be contacting parents next week with details about how to set this up.

And Finally....

You as parents are doing a marvellous job. You are keeping your children safe, acting as educators, playmates and often at a time when you are trying to work from home or keep things going when finances are tight. The website links and suggestions are just to try to help. Try to take some time for yourself; for your children to be safe and well, you also need to be safe and well. We are thinking of all of you.

The following notices have been sent to us and we are sharing them with you as we feel they may be helpful. Please check services before using them.

Trafford Community Response

For parents and carers who may be finding it hard to make ends meet at the moment, struggling to get food, need help with fuel if they are on a pre paid meter, self isolating or want someone to talk to they can access help through Trafford Community Response.

They can find information on this by going on the Trafford.gov.uk website and clicking on the Coronavirus (covid-19) Trafford Community Response.

This will give a phone number to ring to be put in contact with a local hub.



Save over £25 a week on your shopping.

Send us a text to 07860 063 256 to get your first delivery free

Hi, we are a charity based in Manchester called The Bread and Butter Thing (TBBT) and we are trying to help people and families to get by. With support from the team at Ear 4 U M31, we are in your area.



We provide weekly groceries at a fraction of the high street prices through our membership scheme. We will try and always give you something for your cupboards and fridge and we are slowly building our supply.

We get supplies from the stuff that you hear about in the news going to waste, it comes from supermarkets, factories and farms.



We work just like a veg box scheme. Veg box schemes give you great fruit and veg that is seasonal and local, there's very little choice in what you get but everything you get will be fresh.

Step 1 - Send us a text to 07860 063 256 with your full name, your postcode and the name of your hub (Ear 4 U) and we will get in touch.

Step 2 - Select the size of order you want to receive. A typical family order would be £7, an individual would be £3.50. An extra large family would be £14.

Step 3 - We'll send you a text every Sunday to see if you want an order. All you have to do is reply "YES" to the text by 10:00 Monday and we'll deliver your order to Ear 4 U.

