

Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope you and the children are doing as well as you can in these very unusual times. I just wanted to touch base as it's feeling very strange not seeing parents or children on a daily basis.

As we enter our second week of enforced closure, I wanted to highlight a few things;

1) **New material for your child's 'home learning' is now available on the school website;**

<https://tinyurl.com/MMPHomeLearn>

Alongside activities and work set by your child's class teacher, you will also find a list of other useful resources at the end of this page. Your child's class teacher will also be setting regular work on Purple Mash for them to complete.

Can I take this opportunity to point out that, many people are feeling stressed, overwhelmed and under pressure by everything that's happening. **We don't want home schooling and work sent home to be causing any more worry.** You are, and always have been, your child's primary educator. If you decide that your child isn't going to engage with everything sent home, you choose what you think is important for you and your child. ***There is nothing to stress or feel guilty about.***

2) **Contacting your child's class teacher and the school during the school closure.**

As per my previous letter, you can contact your child's class teacher regarding home school work by emailing their class email address;

2 Year old Nursery	2YrOldNursery@mountfordmanor.swindon.sch.uk
3 Year old Nursery	3YearOldNursery@mountfordmanor.swindon.sch.uk
Reception Class	Reception@mountfordmanor.swindon.sch.uk
Year 1	Year1@mountfordmanor.swindon.sch.uk
Year 2	Year2@mountfordmanor.swindon.sch.uk
Year 3	Year3@mountfordmanor.swindon.sch.uk
Year 4	Year4@mountfordmanor.swindon.sch.uk
Year 5	Year5@mountfordmanor.swindon.sch.uk
Year 6	Year6@mountfordmanor.swindon.sch.uk

Any queries regarding the school closure, please visit the school website; <https://mountfordmanor.swindon.sch.uk/> or email admin@mountfordmanor.swindon.sch.uk

During times of closure, our Family Support Team will still be available to support you and your family during usual working hours (Mon – Fri 09:00 – 15:30);

- Carolyn Crawley: 07818510582
- Suzanne Gregory: 07917038339
- Becky Singleton: 07766313479

Any significant updates regarding the school be sent out via text message/Schoop and also displayed both on the school website and Facebook page.

FAQs

My child's teacher has sent home lots of physical work. Pages and pages, hours and hours. How am I supposed to get through it all?

Work sent home are suggestions and ideas because the school is trying to keep children ticking over and in a routine of learning. Use them if they suit you, don't if they don't suit and feel free to find alternatives.

Someone in my child's class has everything done and we have barely started. Will they fall behind?

Even if everything were equal in terms of support, time and number of children (which it's not) all children learn at different rates. In the class there's a wide range of levels in all subjects, there's different paces and there are many children working on differentiated levels of work. It's almost impossible for teachers to differentiate at the moment, so you don't have to do it either.

Your child will not fall behind. This is all revision and reminder work. If children could all learn new concepts without specific teaching, we wouldn't need teachers. They will cover all of this again, multiple times.

I'm not doing any school work with my kids. All they're doing is building Lego, cooking and playing outside.

All of this is learning - very valuable learning. Give yourself and them a break.

How can I get three different lots of work done with 3 different kids of different ages?

You can't, stop trying. If they're old enough, try to get them to do little bits independently. Otherwise, try to do something they can all engage with, reading a story together, some free writing, baking etc.

Should I be talking to my child about the virus or will this just worry them?

It is really important to talk with your child and reassure them that, for the majority of people, they will only get very mild symptoms (if any at all)

This is a website page that supports parents talking to their children who might be worried about coronavirus

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/>

The White Horse Federation have also produced a *Parents & Guardian FAQ* section on the school website.

<https://mountfordmanor.swindon.sch.uk/information-for-parents/covid-19-faqs-for-parents-1/covid-19-faqs-for-parents>

In the meantime, I wish you all good health and hope you and your family are all able to stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely,



Lee Edmonds
Principal