

Newsletter

Monday 27 April 2020

NEW NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Message for Parents/Carers

As mentioned last week, teachers started offering a more structured approach to learning. This is because a number of parents had requested this. As you will appreciate, this is an alien way of working for us too and it is very difficult to pitch the work set to what works for every home situation. We are aware that a number of parents are working from home or have younger children to care for whilst trying to home school as best they can, which can be very stressful. **What I do want to stress is that the wellbeing of the children and their families during this time is what is most important.** If your child is finding something difficult or not responding well to an aspect of learning at a particular time, please do not worry about it and stop. Please create your own schedule which fits in with your family routine and commitments. We would recommend that learning takes place in small chunks of 20 minutes punctuated by movement breaks. If children are finding it difficult to be motivated it often helps to adopt a 'now and next' approach. 'Now' you will do this task/block of learning and then 'next' you can choose an activity of your choice.

Unfortunately, we are unable to produce a large scale paper pack of work due to the current restrictions in place. I understand that this isn't ideal but at the moment we are unable to do this. We have been advising parents to get the children to copy any sheets into their books, thus avoiding having to print everything out. If the White Rose sheets are too difficult to do this in parts, feel free to verbally talk through the answers with your child or miss a part out if needed.

Wear your uniform for home schooling day – today!

Today we were encouraging children to wear their uniform at home (or at school if a key worker child) to raise money for the NHS. If you have forgotten, it doesn't matter, your child could do this on any day this week. All that we ask is that a £2 donation is placed on Schoolmoney. Please do send us any pictures and we will add them to the newsletter next week!



Video

Some of you may have seen the short video that the staff have put together. This was shared by class dojo and through our temporary Facebook site. We would now love to make a short video of photographs of the kinds of things the children/families have been doing at home to lift spirits and enable everyone to see each other during this time. We would however, need enough photographs to do this. If you would like to send any photos in, and understand they would form part of a video that will be online, please send them to admin@milton-st-johns.tameside.sch.uk. Please could we advise you not to include names on any messages the children may hold up of themselves. Ideally we would like the photographs by Friday 8 May please.

We **S**how respect. We are **H**onest. We **I**nclude others. We **N**ever give up. We seek **E**xcellence in all we do.

Free school meals

Parents that are entitled to free school meals (not universal free school meals) have been informed that they are entitled to a weekly family care package of food. Parents that are entitled to this must let the school know by emailing admin@milton-st-johns.tameside.sch.uk by 3.15pm each Wednesday should they require a care package the following Tuesday. If your circumstances have changed and you feel you may be entitled to free school meals please see the information below.

Children are entitled to receive free school meals if they or their parents or guardians receive any of the benefits below.

Universal Credit, provided they have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

Income Support

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The guarantee element of Pension Credit

Child Tax Credit, provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC

Working Tax Credit run-out - paid 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Please visit <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/schoolmeals#apply> for further information



The world as we have known it, has changed; we are all finding life different and some of us are finding it difficult. Let us all remember, we are still one. We are still united; united in change, united in challenge and united in our school community. Please reach out to others if you need support.