



The Priory School

Weekly Briefings

Friday 27th March 2020

<https://prioryschool.dorset.sch.uk> | office@theprioryschool.org | Tel: 01202 484195 | @PrioryCEPrimary

Dear Parents / Carers,

After the tumultuous events of last week, life is beginning to find a new rhythm and routine. The sunshine has been a much-needed blessing and I hope the children have been able to enjoy the sights and sounds of Spring.

As a staff team, we've remained on a steep learning curve as we support children's learning at home and provide childcare for key workers and vulnerable children.

If you don't yet follow us on twitter ([@PrioryCEPrimary](https://twitter.com/PrioryCEPrimary)) please do, because it is proving to be an effective way to share new posts, youtube clips and resources that teachers are providing for the children. In turn, it might even be a vehicle for the children to respond and share photos of their learning with the rest of our online community.

School @ Home Update

We have titled our home learning provision during the school closure as 'School @ Home'. It is very much our hope that our daily lessons on the blog / Google Classroom will give you a much-needed structure during term time weekdays. **There will no lessons over the Easter holidays.**

We have decided to keep uploading daily lessons rather than blocks of work so that we don't overwhelm the children. We have also responded to feedback which requested instructions are posted the night before so parents can have advanced warning—**lessons will now be uploaded at 8.30pm for the following day.**

Please continue to feedback and ask questions to Mr Swain on the help desk: helpdesk@prioryceprimary.co.uk (we've had over 50 messages so far).

Some of the additional resources that you may have missed, which are now available via our website are:

- Miss Kelly's story time on YouTube (Miss K—a book a day)
- Mr Swain's brilliant 'Lockdown' poem on YouTube
- Mrs Moss' Musical Moments page with 2 songs to learn
- Mrs Clapcott's Art lessons on Sparky's page
- Mr Croutear's online safety advice and guidance
- Mr Major's #stayinworkout and #TeamPrioryPEChallenge
- Monsieur Kevin's week 1 and 2 French lessons

Childcare provision for key workers and vulnerable families

We are grateful to the staff, cleaners and caterers who have ensured that appropriate childcare has been provided this week. Numbers are, thankfully, small (between 5 and 10 each day) as our staff availability has reduced further to 39%.

BCP have requested that childcare cover for key workers is **provided over the Easter holiday**, including the Bank Holidays. School staff have volunteered to stay open if needed, so we are in the process of asking our registered key worker families if this is required. I feel I need to stress once again that, while we are happy to serve our community in this way, please only use us as a **last resort**. The latest government guidance to parents is clear:

**If your work is not critical to the fight against Covid-19.
Be responsible. Reduce the spread of Coronavirus. Stay Home and Save Lives.**



Poppets

We are delighted to be working with Poppets to provide breakfast and after school care on site for key workers and vulnerable children. Please contact Lynn Newman to book a place lynn@poppetspreschool.co.uk.

Free School Meals

The school has been working closely with Hampshire catering to find an interim solution, while BCP explores the possibility of supermarket vouchers.

Currently the school is able to **provide packed lunches for pick-up** for all those families entitled to a free school meal. Please contact office@theprioryschool.org to order.

Easter hampers, with a selection of food for the Easter break, are also available on Friday 3rd April for pick up. Again, please contact office@theprioryschool.org to order.

The school does have a small number of spare **Christchurch food bank vouchers** for over Easter. We recognise this is a period of unprecedented challenge for some families. If you require one to be posted to you, please contact office@theprioryschool.org

Off-site Office

Currently our office staff are working from home, so telephone calls are not being picked up. The best way to communicate with us is via the school email: office@theprioryschool.org which is monitored constantly.

Bookaroo not Deliveroo

Mrs Colebeck enjoyed being allowed out of her home to pedal round to a number of our self-isolating families to deliver their home learning packs. This is being a global neighbour in action. Her words to me that 'We are all in this together' reminded me of the vital role we can all play in our community.

HeartSmart

Some children have said they are missing our worship times together. I am hoping to stream one shortly, but in the meantime we have signed up to HeartSmart Creative.

From time to time we will invite you to do a few creative activities with your children based on our current HeartSmart phrase. Science shows that the best way to get information from your head to your heart is to use your hands! So we have created some fun and handy HeartSmart challenges for you to complete at home with your children.

This week it's 'Don't rub it in, rub it out!' and it's about forgiveness.

<https://www.heartsmart.school/hsCreative-dontrubitinrubitout>

Looking Beyond Easter?

It is impossible to predict how this crisis will unfold and whether schools will reopen in 12 weeks or not until September. We have shown that, together, we can quickly react for the good of our pupils in challenging situations and, no doubt, we will be called to do so again.

There are genuine concerns around residential, transitions and progress but for now the next step is clear; to look after the vulnerable, stay at home and reduce the spread of the virus. As Martin Luther King said; **"You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."**

May the God of hope, fill you with His love and peace, as we take the next step together.

Mr Ruffle