



Downside Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Karen Hooker

Dear parents,

I hope everyone is having a good week.

I just thought I would write to you with some fantastic work that Mark Passarelli, our Catering Manager has been doing during lockdown. Mark has designed a week's menu planner – which is both cheap and healthy for families. He has included costs, written menus and has recorded some videos showing how to make some of the dishes. This is a fantastic resource for families and I hope that everyone will have a look and cook some of the dishes!

I have popped everything on to the school's website and attached a zip file to this email – please take a look. There are plenty of recipes to have a go at with your children and more videos will be added shortly.

Remote Learning

Thank you again to all parents who are working really hard with children at home to support their learning. As we near the end of the term, we know things are getting hard – enthusiasm in some children is decreasing and you may start to struggle to motivate your child.

Please reach out and ask for support – or simply just work with your child to complete their Literacy and Numeracy work and then have the occasional afternoon doing other things. There are plenty of learning opportunities in a walk, doing some exercise, playing a board game and baking – try out some of Mark's dishes!

Staffing

Some parents will have seen that we have a number of teachers off school at the moment – this is due to a variety of reasons. As learning is remote, it is not as simple as bringing in a supply teacher and so year group teams are covering these classes – as they know the children best. Please bear with us. One thing which has been a challenge for the teachers is to lead a Goggle Meet session, when they are also working with the children in school. We are working on how this can be accommodated, but with a number of teachers off school, these sessions may be cancelled.



Key workers

I continue to get requests for key worker places. As noted before, all parents were asked to reserve a place for these in January. This enabled rotas to be written and for staff to book childcare for their children, on the dates they were in school.

Parents who are asking for spaces currently are being looked at and we will do our best to accommodate the requests – but are hopeful that if parents can keep their children at home that they do.

Half term

The school will be closed over half term – 15th – 19th February.

Remote Learning will recommence on 22nd February and hopefully we will start to see the roadmap to the full reopening of our school.

Please continue to keep safe!

Yours sincerely,

