



St. Edward's Church of England Academy

Westwood Road, Leek, ST13 8DN

Telephone: 01538 714740

Principal: Mr. T. Hutchinson

<http://stedwards.academy>

11th May 2020

Dear Pupils and Parents/Carers,

I hope I find you well.

Prime Minister's announcement

The Prime Minister updated the nation on Sunday evening. Today, we have received more detailed information regarding exactly what this means for the Academy, for you as parents/carers and for our pupils.

Currently, we will continue to operate the status quo with only 'Key Worker' children being able to access provision within the Academy for education.

We will also only look to increase provision within the Academy when it is safe to do so for all the members of our community, as safeguarding is the number one priority.

Beginning from tomorrow, you will receive a phone call from your child's House Tutor one day this week. We would like to offer this phone call just to see how your son or daughter is getting on and to offer a reassuring voice from the Academy.

I would also request that you complete this Survey Monkey, which should take no longer than a minute to complete:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FFZ5ZX9>

Completing this short survey will help us know better whether you would like us to continue to make calls as the lock down continues.

Over the coming days, we will continue to update you with further guidance regarding our plans for this next phase in our strategy. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work to put plans into place.

Important: Staying happy

During these uncertain times, everyone at the Academy wants pupils and parents/carers to first and foremost be safe and well. That includes your mental health and well-being.

We are setting work on Go4Schools to enable parents/carers to provide activities and learning in whatever shape and form this may take. We understand that living rooms, bedrooms and kitchen tables are not classrooms or laboratories, although I know some of you have made conversions during the past few weeks.

Therefore, parents/carers: please do not apply more pressure to yourselves than you need to. You are doing an amazing job and everyone at the Academy applauds your efforts as honorary teachers. We know for many of you this is not a job you wanted or always feel fully equipped to carry out.

We only expect our pupils to do their best as we would when they are in school. If this means completing the work they can do, the work they enjoy then that's great. But this doesn't mean having to complete every single task set. The most important thing is staying happy, healthy and content. Learning is as much about being out in the garden, playing a game, keeping active, cooking a meal, or helping with the washing up and laundry.

The Academy is currently working on additional support and plans that will be announced soon. Once these plans are in place, we will of course be in touch with details of the next phase of the Academy strategy to support you as parents/carers and our pupils who are such essential members of our community.

Reminder: Home School Games – deadline tomorrow!

Our local School Games Organiser has put together some physical activities that pupils can undertake each week and log their progress. This will then be reported back to us as a school and will compare us to other schools that are taking part. It would be fantastic if we could continue to set our standards really high this week and once again demonstrate our physical prowess.

Well done to all the pupils who participated in last week's tasks. Another excellent set of results, as follows:

Y5 = 1st place Y6 = 1st place Y7 = 2nd place Y8 = 2nd place

Can Y7 and Y8 join Y5 and Y6 in 1st place this week? Can Y5 and Y6 achieve three weeks in a row in 1st place?

The links below take you to the Home School Games competition pages for this week:

[Y5 & Y6 Home School Games – Deadline: Tuesday 12th May at 4pm](#)

[Y7 & Y8 Home School Games – Deadline: Tuesday 12th May at 4pm \(please note changed deadline\)](#)

Pupils who have completed the activities can download certificates to celebrate their participation:

[Home School Games - Certificates](#)

Reminder: Transition

For those pupils who will be joining us in Year 5 or leaving us from Year 8 this year, we're working with high schools and first schools to make alternative arrangements where necessary. Please be assured that you will receive all the necessary documentation, guidance and activities you need in a format that you can complete at home. We are also looking to arrange alternative events when lock down restrictions change.

For the new Year 5 pupils: we can't wait to meet you all and get to know you and introduce you to our wonderful Academy community.

For our Year 8 pupils: we will be very sad to see you go. But don't worry, we won't be letting you go without a proper send off! We are working on what this is going to look like at the moment. You deserve it after all that you have contributed to our Academy over the last four years and in becoming such amazing 10:10 young people.

For Year 8 pupils who will be joining **Westwood College** in September 2020:

- Link to information from Westwood College for Y8 pupils and their parents/carers: <https://www.stedwards.academy/parents-and-carers/year-8-2020-transition-to-high-school-information>
- Transition letter from the Headteacher at Westwood College: [Westwood College Transition Letter](#)
- Pupil survey (to be completed by **Wednesday 20th May**): [Westwood College Pupil Survey](#)
- 'Information for Parents' section on Westwood College's website: <https://www.ttl.org.uk/parents/>
- 'Contact' section on Westwood College's website: <https://www.ttl.org.uk/contact/>

Reminder: Vacant Seat Scheme

Where there are places available on school buses once all pupils eligible for free or subsidised transport have been allocated a place, Staffordshire County Council School Transport offers a Vacant Seat Scheme for pupils who are not eligible for free or subsidised transport. Applications are now open for the Vacant Seat Scheme for September 2020 onwards.

If you would like to apply for a continuing or new place for your child on the Vacant Seat Scheme, please apply as soon as possible as applications are processed on a first come, first served basis. Please see the Vacant Seat Scheme information sheet for further details about the scheme and how to apply:

[Staffordshire County Council Vacant Seat Scheme information sheet](#)

Reminder: Communication and subject queries

To assist you in contacting the correct person at the Academy when you have a query, please continue to utilise the CONTACTS link on the Academy website for all general and office focused enquiries. For any subject specific questions, please utilise the following addresses to access key subject specialists:

For Maths	maths@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk
For English	englishst@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk
For Science and Computing	scienceandcomputing@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk
For Geography, History and MFL	humanandlang@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk
For RE	re-sted@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk
For Creative Studies	creativestudies@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk

Reminder: Staying safe

Please can I remind all pupils to stay safe and think about the content and language used when talking to each other via chat groups, texts and a multitude of different apps. Please be kind to one another and remember our RESPECT ethos.

Parents and carers, please can you remember the age guidance on platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, TikTok and others. Please monitor your child's usage and who they are talking to. This is to keep them safe. For further guidance, please make use of the information on the Academy website and/or in the Safer Schools app we have previously sent out information about.

Reminder: Resources from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service have now launched their new Safe+Sound programme. This is a weekly programme with partners providing workshops for children who are currently educating at home. Like the regular Safe+Sound events, the programme is aimed at KS2 children (Y5 & Y6) and will run for 12 weeks from Wednesday 6th May with new content and different partners getting involved every week.

[Information about the Safe+Sound programme](#)

[Safe+Sound week 1 – available from 10am on Wednesday 6th May](#)

Topics include:

- Fire Safety
- First Aid
- Water Safety
- Mental Health & Well-being
- Road Safety
- Internet Safety

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service will share the link to the live programme each Tuesday for 12 weeks. Each week will have live chat, several workshops and a quiz – all aimed at helping children to keep themselves and their families Safe+Sound in these extraordinary times. The programme will also be available to view again on demand at any time after it goes live.

Reminder: For those budding chefs amongst you

<https://www.biteback2030.com/>

Biteback2030 is an excellent website set up by one of celebrity chef Jamie Oliver's prodigies. It aims to encourage young people to cook and is focused on doing this using the funding allocated to those pupils with Free School Meals so is accessible to everyone.

Reminder: Y7 French trip

Refunds have now been processed for the Y7 French trip. Please note that refunds can take several days to appear in your ParentPay account. Please see the ParentPay guide 'How to make a withdrawal from your parent account' which we have added to the Y7 letters section on the Academy website.

We apologise that this has taken some time but we have been working closely with our legal team and the company we had booked the trip with and we will continue to do so. We feel as an Academy that no parent should be affected by the cancellation of this trip and we will be supporting you fully.

Reminder: The National Trust – things to do at home and in the garden

Below is the link to the 'things to do at home and in the garden' page on the National Trust website. The ideas include interesting podcasts to listen to, gardening tips, baking recipes and you can view collections online. There are some great suggestions such as a bird spotting guide, building a wildlife home and 50 things to do in your back garden.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/things-to-do>

Reminder: Writing competition

The Young Walter Scott Prize Team are offering a writing competition. If you are aged between 11 and 19 and interested in history and writing, the Young Walter Scott Prize is ready to take you on an adventure! This is the UK's only creative writing prize specifically for budding historical fiction writers.

If you have a story of between 800 and 2000 words set in a time before you were born, you can enter the Young Walter Scott Prize. The competition is now open for entries and the closing date is 31st October 2020. Entries are judged in two age groups: 11 to 15 years and 16 to 19 years. Any kind of fiction is accepted – prose, poetry, drama, fictional letters or reportage.

For further details and to enter, please go to: <https://www.walterscottprize.co.uk/young-walter-scott-prize/>.

Reminder: Key worker school opening

As we do not know when the lock down restrictions will be eased, we are happy to continue to support our fellow key workers and will be open through the half term break. Our current systems for checking and recording pupil attendance will remain.

Reminder: Facebook posts

Please can I remind you to send photographs for Facebook to information@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk. In your email, please remember to include that you give us permission to post your photographs on Facebook, your child's name (if you are happy for us to include your child's name with the photographs) and a brief description to accompany the photographs. We love to see all the things you have been up to and also to share your accomplishments with the rest of our community.

Reminder: Free School Meals

For families who already access Free School Meals, please note that Aldi and McColl's are also now accepting Free School Meal vouchers.

If you have not accessed Free School Meals in the past but think you and your child(ren) might be entitled to them now due to a change in circumstances, please use the links below to view information about Free School Meals and to make an application.

With the current situation, more families are now accessing Universal Credit. When your family receives Universal Credit, this does not mean that Free School Meals will begin automatically; you need to apply to Staffordshire County Council to access this funding. The Academy is then informed by Staffordshire County Council once your application for Free School Meals has been processed.

[Staffordshire County Council – Free School Meals Eligibility Criteria](#)

[Staffordshire County Council – Free School Meals Applications](#)

Reminder: Staying safe online – CEOP

As we are all needing to use the internet more and more to access communication, information and resources for every part of our lives at the moment, it is even more important that we are all aware of the dangers that being online and working online can pose. This is particularly important for your children and our pupils who are utilising the world wide web. CEOP and the Thinkuknow education programme are generating worksheets and guidance each week on a Tuesday to support everyone to stay safe online. Please use the link below or visit the 'School Information Updates' section on the Academy website:

[CEOP Thinkuknow Online Safety Guidance](#)

Reminder: Yoga app

In case you are ready for a change from Joe Wicks' daily PE sessions, there is a free yoga app available for you to download:

[Down Dog App for Schools](#)

Reminder: Learning resources for all

As the lock down situation continues and develops, further resources and support are being developed to assist in a range of ways. For you as parents/carers and pupils, **Oak National Academy** and **BBC Bitesize Daily** are providing excellent teaching aids that are accessible to all. BBC Bitesize is available via the 'Red Button' on your television as well as online.

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

I have asked teachers to make reference to these resources where possible and applicable on the Go4Schools website by linking the resources to the tasks the Academy is setting for our pupils. However, if you are struggling to access Academy resources, please feel free to utilise these documents, quizzes, videos and activities. They are arranged by age range and subject although they do not currently cover the entire curriculum, unlike the work set by the Academy.

Reminder: Support – Survive Together: Leek

The Survive Together: Leek project has been established to provide support to a range of people in Leek, Cheddleton and the surrounding areas.

Firstly, Survive Together: Leek is looking for volunteers to assist them in a range of ways. If you are interested in providing support, you can contact them via email on volunteer@survive-together.org.uk.

Secondly, to request support or to make a referral for someone who needs support at the current time, please phone 0345 605 3010 or 01538 398378.

The Survive Together: Leek flyer has been attached at the end of this letter. All details can also be found on the Survive Together: Leek Facebook page.

Reminder: Parental guidance with writing

To aid parents and carers with some of the techniques and key elements of writing, Mr Renshaw has kindly put together an excellent pack that explains what is required. This pack can be found in the 'School Information Updates' section on the Academy website at the link below:

[English Writing Support Pack](#)

Reminder: Rights Respecting School

As a Rights Respecting School, we regularly reflect on different articles from the UN Convention of Rights for the Child. During the current period, the UN are releasing an 'Article of the Week' for you to examine and discuss the significance of on your lives. This week's article is Article 14: Freedom of thought, belief and religion:

[Unicef: Rights Respecting Schools - Article of the Week](#)

Reminder: Mental health and well-being

At the current time more than ever, ensuring that we look after our personal mental health and that of those we care about is paramount. Below are a range of resources, websites and apps that you can access and that provide links to further mental health and well-being materials.

- <https://www.headspace.com/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51873799>
- <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-children-and-young-people/>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/>
- <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Reminder: Safeguarding

Keeping our pupils and their families safe is our most important job.

If you have any concerns, please call First Response on 0800 131 3126 or the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or Childline on 0800 1111. If you need to contact us, please do so via the Contacts link on the Academy website.

There is a lot of support available to help keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

- Think You Know: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- Internet Matters: <https://www.internetmatters.org/> (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- Parent Info: <https://parentinfo.org/> (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- LGfL: <https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/> (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- Net Aware: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

Reminder: FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Question: Where can I find the link to the login page for Accelerated Reader?

Answer: *In the 'Pupils' section on the Academy website, there is a page called '[Study Links](#)'. On this page, you will find the link to the login page for Accelerated Reader and also links to other websites regularly used by pupils such as TT Rockstars, Spelling Shed and My Maths.*

Question: Why have I received a report for my child when my child isn't currently attending school?

Answer: *The report available on Go4Schools from 4th May is based on academic information that was entered into the school system by teaching staff as part of the usual scheduled reporting cycle during the first week that school was closed to the majority of pupils. This was a planned collection point for Progress Check 3, relating to the period January 2020 to March 2020.*

There is always a delay between staff inputting the data and reports being available to parents. This is due to the checking of information by class teachers and Faculty Leaders and the length of time it takes to input the information into a format to send out as a report. Unfortunately, this time has been a little longer than usual. There was the two week Easter break and this set of reports has been collated remotely on laptops, using slower internet connections, rather than in school using the main computers which run from the school server.

Question: Why can't I see the correct work for my child on Go4Schools?

Answer: *To see all the work set for your child, please remember to click on 'view full list of homework tasks' on Go4Schools. Only the tasks set as due in the next seven days automatically appear. Now that there is such a variety of tasks being uploaded, pupils may also need to click 'more' to view all tasks.*

Question: How often and on which days do teachers set new tasks on Go4Schools?

Answer: *Teachers set new tasks on Go4Schools every Monday and Thursday afternoon. For some subjects, longer project based tasks may be set within this structure.*

Question: How long should my child spend completing their schoolwork each day?

Answer: *When pupils are in school, they would not be working for the entire day so please keep this in mind. Spending two to four hours working with breaks is a suitable amount of time, considering that in school there would be group activities, sports, music and creative tasks to break up individual written work.*

Question: Can work be set for completion by pupils hour by hour?

Answer: *We are setting work to provide tasks for all pupils. Setting tasks that are specified to one hour is difficult when providing for class groups remotely. Pupils should work on tasks as set, but if this takes several sessions that is not an issue. The work set is also there to support pupils. If tasks are leading to pupils feeling anxious or spending excessive time periods to complete a task, then this is not our expectation. If pupils have tried their best and completed a task to the best of their ability, then we expect nothing more than this as this is in line with our 10:10 vision!*

Question: Can the Academy set up Zoom sessions and/or video lessons?

Answer *The Academy is not going to utilise Zoom with pupils due to the potential safeguarding concerns and occurrences of 'Zoom Bombing'. This has led to a blanket ban on Zoom by several national education systems abroad.*

The new Oak National Academy resources and BBC Bitesize resources I have highlighted in this letter provide video lessons and linked resources that are secure and are in a format accessible to all.

Updated: Additional web resources that may be helpful to parents/carers

Roald Dahl – Things to do indoors: listen to Stanley Tucci read 'The Witches', learn to draw Willy Wonka with Quentin Blake, complete Mr Fox's clever crossword and lots more!

<https://www.roalddahl.com/things-to-do-indoors>

Kew Gardens – Learning at home: <https://www.kew.org/learning/learning-at-home>

Forestry England – play 'Tree Trumps Top Trumps': <https://www.forestryengland.uk/resource/tree-trumps>

BBC Bitesize – How to tour the world from your bedroom: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z6qhnrđ>

The Vatican Virtual Tour:

<http://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei/tour-virtuali-elenco.html>

NASA Kids: <https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub/index.html>

BBC Teach Podcasts – School Radio:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/319Xwwk3ZMzRGWvC5xZKNq8/podcasts>

Explore – live webcams of nature all around the world: <https://explore.org/livecams>

Project Explorer – exploring the world: <https://www.projectexplorer.org/kids-home>

Disney Theatrical Productions is offering free downloadable creative activities for parents from their West End shows of The Lion King, Mary Poppins, Frozen and Aladdin: <https://disneyonstage.co.uk/education/>

Harry Potter: A History of Magic exhibition at the British Library is available through Google Arts and Culture: <https://artsandculture.google.com/project/harry-potter-a-history-of-magic>

The British Library Collection: <https://www.bl.uk/catalogues-and-collections/digital-collections>

BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

Oak National Academy: <https://www.thenational.academy/>

National Geographic Kids Discover: <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/category/discover/>

Jodrell Bank Beyond the Rainbow: <https://www.jodrellbank.net/beyond-the-rainbow-multiwavelength-astronomy>

The Copley Prize 2020 is a competition for pupils up to the age of 11 to enter a drawing or painting inspired by L S Lowry: <https://thelowryblog.com/2020/04/08/the-copley-prize-2020/>

Sport England 'Stay In, Work Out' – tips, advice and guidance on how to keep or get active in or around your home: <https://www.sportengland.org/stayinworkout>

Harry Potter at Home (activities for first-time readers and those already familiar with the Harry Potter books): <https://www.wizardingworld.com/collections/harry-potter-at-home>

Andrew Lloyd Webber is live streaming some of his musicals on YouTube on Friday evenings: <https://www.youtube.com/theshowsmustgoon>

The National Theatre are releasing live streams of some of their most popular plays on YouTube on Thursday evenings: search for 'National Theatre' on <https://www.youtube.com/>

Rosetta Stone (language learning at home – free of charge access for school children for three months): <https://www.rosettastone.co.uk/lp/freeforkids/>

<https://www.thebodycoach.com/blog/pe-with-joe-1254.html>

Many of you have already been taking part in PE with Joe Wicks at 9am on weekdays and have let us know how much you are enjoying it. If you haven't yet tried PE with Joe Wicks, why not give it a go tomorrow morning?

Elementari (pupils write their own stories then create interactive animations): <https://www.elementari.io/>

<https://radioblogging.net>

This is a radio broadcast on the internet with a live lesson by English teachers at 9.30am to inspire writers. Click on the orange button on the Radio Blogging website to listen. Pupils need to listen live to access the lesson - set yourself a reminder for 9.25am so that you don't miss out!

Reading recommendations by age group: <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/>

Audio books (free during school closure): <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

Twinkl Home Learning Hub: <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/home-learning-hub>

The Hidden Worlds of the National Parks: <https://artsandculture.withgoogle.com/en-us/>

Chester Zoo Learning Resources: <https://www.chesterzoo.org/schools/resources/>

Scouts – The Great Indoors (indoor activity ideas): <https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors>

The World of David Walliams: <https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

JCB – Build Your Own Hydradig: https://www.jcb.com/origin2017/~/_asset/14/46105

Active History: www.activehistory.co.uk (Username: stedwards / Password: junior21)

God bless,

Mr T Hutchinson
Principal



If you are able to leave the house and go shopping then we **NEED YOU!**

The vulnerable, elderly and isolated in our community **NEED YOU!**

If you have the time and are well enough to do so, then please, email your details to:

volunteer@survive-together.uk

To start helping in your community today and building for a better tomorrow.



/SurviveTogetherUK /survive-together-uk



Hi my name is _____

I am a volunteer for the Survive Together project in Leek & Cheddleton to help anyone in my local area that might need it during these worrying times.

Please contact me if you need:

Shopping Collected A Friendly Phone Call Urgent Supplies

You can call me or text me on _____

You can also get support from the project by calling Staffordshire Moorlands District Council on **0345 6053010**, and help & advice from the Haregate Community Centre on **01538 398378**.

Find us on online at: survive-together.uk
Printed & Delivered by Survive Together



Need help? Call our SMDC helpline
0345 6053010

www.survive-together.uk /SurviveTogetherUK /survive-together-uk