Pathfinder
Multi Academy Trust

Weekly **Newsletter**

STAY AT HOME - PROTECT THE NHS - SAVE LIVES

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that all of our families are continuing to keep safe and well as we all adjust to new ways of working and learning from home. To help with this, we have put together some top tips for home learning and staying safe online which you can find on the second page of this newsletter.

Free School Meals Update
For all children who are entitled to a free school meal, the government has launched a national voucher scheme providing a weekly £15 voucher to spend in Morrisons, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda, Waitrose or M&S. Our schools will be in touch with further details for those families in receipt of free school meals. The children of key workers and vulnerable children still attending our schools who would normally have a free school meal will still receive one on the days they are in school.

Supporting Key Workers
We continue to have provision in place in our schools to support the children of key workers. If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response and you have no alternative childcare arrangements, please contact your school for more information.

STAY AT HOME

PROTECT THE NHS

♥ save lives

Easter Craft Competition

To celebrate Easter across our schools this year, we are launching an inter-school Easter Craft Competition.

Open to all staff, pupils and their families, use your creative craft skills to give a household item an Easter themed makeover.

Send a photo of your entry, along with your name and school to **info@pmat.academy**.
Prizes for the best 3 entries!

Post updates on social media and share your creations with us on Twitter using **@PathfinderMAT**.

Closing date: Mon 13 April at midnight.

Contacting school

If you need to contact one of our schools, you can continue to do so in the usual way. Emails and phone messages are also checked daily.

Coronavirus: information and advice

We have setup a page on the Pathfinder website where you can find the latest information and updates, including copies of our weekly newsletter.

LATEST UPDATES

Top tips for home learning and staying safe online

Our schools are continuing to provide a wealth of online resources to help children continue their education from home. However, it can be challenging to keep ourselves focussed and motivated outside of our usual structured school and work days.

We have put together the following tips and advice which both children and parents may find useful for the weeks ahead.

- Set aside a dedicated area where your child can work each day.

- Read through the task instructions together, so they understand exactly what they need to do.

- Help make sure they have all of the necessary equipment for each piece of work or task.

- Establish a time frame in which to complete a task, this will help them stay focussed.

- Make sure they take regular breaks, especially if they are using a screen.

- Encourage them to keep active.

- Don't panic if children don't understand a task and you can't help them. Contact the school for clarification and move onto a different task.

- Take advantage of the many online resources:

    PE with Joe Wicks

    English with David Walliams

    Music with Myleene Klass

    Maths with Carol Vorderman (younger children)

    History with Dan Snow

    Languages with Duolingo

    Science with Maddie Moate

    TedEd (from the makers of Ted Talks)

    BBC Bitesize

    Harry Potter at Home

Online Safety

While in school, children's internet usage is closely monitored and there are systems in place to prevent them from accessing anything harmful. It's a good idea to make sure that you have appropriate filters in place at home while children are using the internet more frequently to access online resources. If you're unsure, your Internet Service Provider will be able to provide you with information on web filtering.

Below are some tips to share with children to help keep them safe while online and make sure they're using the internet correctly:

- Treat others how you would like to be treated. If you wouldn't say something to someone in person, don't say it online.

- Make sure you're aware of how your messages might come across to others.

- Respect other people's privacy.

- Use websites you know are safe.

- Don't talk to anyone you don't know, or arrange to meet them.

- Keep an eye out for unusual pop-ups, adverts or downloads. Don't open them if you think they aren't trustworthy.

- Don't give out personal information about you, your friends or your family to anyone you don't know.

- Only use social networking sites that you are old enough to use – age limits are there for a reason.

- Speak to an adult if something worries you or makes you feel uncomfortable.

Useful Links

www.net-aware.org.uk

www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents