



Dear Parents and Carers,

You have made it through another week of balancing the many things that you are all having to juggle at present and if you have managed to do this and find time to smile and laugh together, then you should be celebrating that you are still able to 'keep it real'!

As a school we have been so very impressed with the levels of engagement, motivation and encouragement that you are finding to support your children with their home learning. We fully appreciate that it isn't an easy time for you all and there will be highs and lows along the way. We are all still here for you to do whatever we can to help and support until we are in a position to all be back on site together again. Remember, we are all in this and going through these times together, we are all learning together as we go and we are only a message or phone call away.

We thank you for your ongoing support and kindness in the messages that we receive as they really mean such a lot and really give us a 'lift' and bring a smile to our days. We also thank you for the patience and understanding that you have shown as teachers cannot always get back in touch with you straight away as they are teaching full time in the onsite provision for over 170 children, whilst also working on providing the home learning for our children too. This week, some staff have been trialling Teams meetings with groups of children, to give them the opportunity to interact with one another, celebrate their achievements, discuss their learning and also support their general wellbeing. There will be more information regarding how we will be rolling this out to year groups next week.

If you get a chance, please take a look at our Remote Learning Policy, which is on our school website under the 'Policies, please follow this link:

<https://www.thevaynor.worcs.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=28>

We are continuing to refine our offer and as always stay true to our school motto 'Inspired to be the best that we can be'. With this in mind, we will be sending a parental survey regarding our 'Remote Learning Offer' to parents of children not able to access onsite provision the week beginning 8th February and your engagement with this would be very much appreciated. We appreciate that every family is very different and that what suits one family may not suit another, but if we can find a middle ground for parents then we know that we will be doing the very best that we can.

Vaynor children remember your **VAYNOR SUPERPOWERS**, this is the time that you need to prove these to yourself and show them to your parents and your teachers more than ever!

Please see the list of these on the next page.



The 8 Superpowers of a Great Learner

Superpower	Motto	Qualities
CHALLENGE TAKER	"I give everything a go!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I feel safe to try something new ✓ I have a 'can do' attitude ✓ I push myself
RESILIENT	"I NEVER give up!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I know it's okay to make mistakes ✓ I will keep trying to find away ✓ I keep going
MOTIVATED	"I want to learn new things!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I show enthusiasm ✓ I set goals for myself ✓ I aim high
INQUISITIVE	I explore and ask questions!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I investigate ✓ I don't accept one answer ✓ I like to discover new things
CREATIVE	"I have lots of ideas!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I can find more than one way to do something ✓ I can solve problems ✓ I have a good imagination
CONFIDENT	"I believe in myself!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I know I can make mistakes and that they are okay ✓ I believe I can learn new things ✓ I am happy with who I am
INDEPENDENT	"I can make my own decisions!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I can learn by myself ✓ I know what to do if I'm finding something tricky ✓ I know when I'm doing really well
EMPATHETIC	"I learn well with others!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I can understand how other people are feeling ✓ I can take on other people's ideas ✓ I can help other people to learn



CONTACTING US:

Our MyEd app remains the main method of communication to you and I would strongly advise those of you that have not yet done so, to download the app. Alternatively please email the school office on: office@vfs.endeavourschools.org

Reminder for app users: If a MyEd app user has 3 unread messages for more than two days, your account will become inactive. Whilst this does not stop you from using the app, it means that messages will not continue to come through until you re-open the app and read the messages that are waiting. Once the messages have been read, this will automatically reactivate your account.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS (FSM):

If your circumstances have changed **you may now be eligible for the income based Free School Meals.** Please note that **this is different to the free meals** that all Reception, Year 1 and 2 children are entitled to when school is open. **It also entitles you to other financial assistance.** If you are at all unsure, please click on the link below to see if you qualify.

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20062/schools/684/applying_for_free_school_meals/2

TIPS FOR HOME LEARNING:

We appreciate that it isn't easy, just have a go and try to do your best. It is worth trying to establish a clear routine for the day as children learn better when they know what is expected of them and the weekly overview provided by the teachers should help support you with this.

It is also important in these strange times to try and ensure that the children:

- ***Get up and go to bed at the same time each day***
- ***Have regular meal times***
- ***Have regular breaks and try to break down work into shorter periods (based on how long they can concentrate)***
- ***Make time to be active - in school children are used to regular play at lunch and break times so try to do active and practical things***
- ***Remember to praise or reward them when they do well – even if it's been a tough day!***

E-SAFETY FOR ONLINE LEARNING:

Thinkuknow provides an online safety curriculum to support families during school closures at a time where children will be spending more time online, learning at home. There are a series of 15 minute home activity packs to support children's learning. Please follow this link:

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/.](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/)

Please ensure that you have set appropriate **parental controls** on any devices that your children are using and supervise their use of any websites. There is further support and guidance on this on our school website.



7 TOP TIPS FOR SUPPORTING READING AT HOME:

Reading with your child, or encouraging your child to read independently for just ten minutes each day can make all the difference. Here are some tips to help children of all ages to enjoy reading and to get reading more often.

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19 Resources/Resources for schools/7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19%20Resources/Resources%20for%20schools/7%20Top%20Tips%20to%20Support%20Reading%20at%20Home.pdf)

OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES IN THESE TIMES

ADULT MENTAL HEALTH: These are difficult times, if as an adult you are looking for self-guide support for your mental health and wellbeing, you can self-refer to NHS talking therapies for anxiety and depression via [Find an NHS psychological therapies service \(IAPT\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk). These services are free and the therapies can be delivered remotely on-line and on the telephone. You can self-refer to your local service directly where you are currently registered with a GP or if you need help for your anxiety or depression contact:

[Find an NHS psychological therapies service \(IAPT\) - Search for your GP - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk).

NSPCC: The link below has helpful advice on:

- ✓ Talking to children about Covid-19
- ✓ Online safety
- ✓ How to cope with children's tantrums

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

As a school we would hope that we would always be your first port of call to be able to help and support you with any worries or concerns that you may have during this time. Just send us a message requesting help via the MyEd app and one of our leaders will get back to you.

I also want to remind you aware of the **Here2Help Worcestershire**. This is a county wide campaign coordinated by Worcestershire County Council that has been set up to ensure that everyone can access the help and support that they need, during the Covid-19 pandemic that has a wealth of information on a whole variety of issues. **PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO CLICK ON THIS LINK, IT COULD BE THE BEST THING YOU EVER DO!** **LINK:** <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help>

It contains a wealth of information including advice and resources to help families to support, entertain and educate their children as well as support for both children's and adults mental health and wellbeing.

In addition to this you can request help by completing a **short on-line form** on the website, or via a dedicated phone number: **01905 768053**, which is open from **8am to 8pm seven days a week**. Each request received is picked up by a Worcestershire County Council or Worcestershire Children First member of staff, who will work with you, to provide you with the appropriate information and support.





I hope this provides you all with some additional help and support that you may need at this time. Please take a moment to click on the links as I am confident that there is something there to support each one of us in these times.

Most importantly, be kind to yourselves, these are difficult times and we are all making our way through them the very best that we can.

So for now and until we can be together again, keep safe:

