



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all beginning to adjust to the strange times in which we currently find ourselves. On behalf of our Vaynor Team we hope you are all keeping well and that our little 'Hello!' brought a smile to your faces and let you know that we haven't forgotten you. We have been overwhelmed with the many kind words of appreciation, and these have all been passed on to our team. If you haven't had chance to see it yet, please go to the **'Home Learning' page of our school website and click on the tab entitled 'Hello'**.

On Saturday we received a lovely message on behalf of all of our parents and children directing us rather cryptically to something special that you are currently working on. If you haven't seen this yet please follow the following link: https://youtu.be/-BWzD_wtkrk Again, thank you, as it means such a lot to us all and makes us look forward even more to the time when we can be back together as a family again.

CONTACTING US:

Whilst we are not currently able to be at the end of the telephone for you, **it is vitally important that you know that we are still here for you and how to go about contacting us with any concerns you may have.** 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.

CHILDCARE PROVISION FOR CRITICAL WORKERS:

As you are aware, The Vaynor First School is now closed and the childcare provision for our Critical Workers is taking place at Crabbs Cross Academy. To control the spread of the virus, the Government have deemed this provision to be **for a limited number of children who ABSOLUTELY NEED TO ATTEND** where parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot safely be cared for at home. To access this provision evidence is required from your employer and you will also be required to sign a disclaimer for your child to attend. If you require any further information regarding this, please contact us via the MyEd app or email our school office.

HOME LEARNING:

Just a reminder that as in the two weeks prior to our Easter holiday, the work for the children is uploaded to the 'Home Learning' tab of our school website by **3pm each Friday for the next week.**

During this time the priority still remains your child's happiness and wellbeing. Home learning can be difficult. Please see page 3 for some tips to help!



FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS (FSM):

The Government have rolled out a voucher scheme to provide supermarket vouchers to the value of £15 for all children entitled to Free School Meals. This is different to the Universal Free School Meals that children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 receive. These are difficult times for many families with so many changes to people's circumstances. Therefore, please check the criteria below to see if your family qualify to claim for this.

- *Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:*
- *Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)*
- *Income Support*
- *Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance*
- *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance*
- *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- *The guaranteed element of Pension Credit*
- *Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)*
- *Working Tax Credit run-on-paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit*

If you think you may be eligible please follow this link to apply online:

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

Your application will then be assessed and you will be notified of the outcome. If you are eligible, vouchers will then be provided for you.

USEFUL WEBSITE:

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

The link above to the NSPCC website has helpful advice on:

- ✓ Talking to children about Covid-19
- ✓ Supporting SEND children
- ✓ Online safety
- ✓ How to cope with tantrums
- ✓ Working from home
- ✓ Lockdown & separated parents



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!***

Younger children will need you to sit with them as they work, whereas Key Stage 2 children may only need you to give them a little support and direction and are able to work more independently.

Below are some links from Sport England, with ideas for fun ways of providing your children with 60 minutes of physical activity. These can be carried out indoors or outdoors.

BOOGIE BEEBIES: for Reception children

Website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006mvsc>

Description: videos that get younger children up and dancing with CBeebies presenters.

DISNEY 10 MINUTE SHAKEUPS: for Reception to Year 4 children

Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/10-minute-shake-up/shake-ups>

Description: 10-minute activities based on Disney films that count towards a child's 60 active minutes per day.

SUPER MOVERS: for Year 1 – Year 4 children

Website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers>

Description: videos which help children move while they learn. They support curriculum subjects, including maths and English.

#ThisIsPE: for Year 1 – Year 4 children

Website: <https://www.afpe.org.uk/physical-education/thisispe-supporting-parents-to-teach-pe-at-home/>

Description: videos delivered by teachers focussing on the PE curriculum which are accessible on YouTube.

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.



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 make you aware of **Here2Help Worcestershire**. This is a countrywide 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.

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help>

**HERE 2 HELP
WORCESTERSHIRE**



The link to the website above is really worth **everyone** having a look as it contains a wealth of information including advice and resources to help families to 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.

This includes providing advice and support to families where:

- The financial situation in the household has changed and parents are struggling to be able to feed their family
- Parents might be struggling to cope without their usual support networks, to help look after children and keep them entertained
- The isolation and loneliness, are bringing increasing stress and anxiety for children, young people and parents.

For **vulnerable households who may be self-isolating** and don't have available family, friends and neighbours to support them **Here2 Help** can also help you to access food and medicine through one of their network of volunteers.

Individuals, groups and organisations can also offer to help with this project by completing a short on-line form on the website.



So I think it is fair to say that this has been a rather lengthy update and whilst I will put all of this information onto our school website, I wanted you all to have the information together, in one place, in case you need to refer to it at any point.

Thank you for all of the good wishes we have received for our team, I am pleased to say that we are all currently safe and well.

To the many across our nation who are on the 'front line' and those of you within our own Vaynor family, we thank you and are truly grateful for all that you are doing for us.

To those of you whose lives have been impacted by someone you love being affected by this virus, our thoughts and prayers are with you. To the many of you who are being a support to those with family members who have been touched by this virus, again thank you.

These are unprecedented and worrying times but all we are being asked to do is to stay at home, work from home whenever possible, and wash our hands!



Keep safe and we look forward to all being back together again soon!