

# SWECET Primary Schools

## Keep-In-Touch

### Issue Two

03.4.20



Developing our people

Nurturing our differences

Aspiring for excellence

Dear Parents and Carers,


Our staff have been thinking of you all at home and we are missing the children very much.

As we lead up to the "Easter break" we have decided that some family time away from school work is even more important now and, as a Trust, we are not setting work for the two Easter weeks. However, we have prepared a fun and interesting set of activities which we hope you will use and complete one each day. Some suggest that you email us using the school closure email addresses (below) to show us what you have produced. We will post these on our websites.

After the Easter break, teachers will be calling every child/family in their class to check in, catch up and to ensure they are behaving at home ;) Teachers will have to call without "Caller ID" so do please be aware that the call will be coming during the week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Teachers are really looking forward to chatting to you all.

Do have a peaceful Easter.

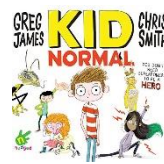
*Ms Pumfrey and the Leadership Teams in our schools*

 **Please do watch our videos...**  
Go to YouTube and search for "SWECET". There are a number of great videos for everyone to enjoy. Look out for the Deneholm staff one being posted later today. It is brilliant!

#### Free Reading Books

Oxford Owl is currently free to sign up to, and has a huge range of great e-books to access free of charge. You can sort them by book band, phonics level, reading age... suitable from age 3 - 11. Happy reading! It is easy to register and then you will have access to an enormous e-book library.

[oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-...](http://oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-...)



#### Kid Normal – audio book

This link takes you to the free audio written by Greg James from Radio 1. Aimed at 7+ years.

Parents/carers can click on this link to download and use an amazon login to get the story for free. <https://t.co/ErxU8woqU9?ssr=true>

#### Contacting Us

If you need to contact us whilst schools are closed, please use the following email addresses:

Chadwell: [schoolclosure@swecet.org](mailto:schoolclosure@swecet.org)

Deneholm: [schoolclosure@dps.swecet.org](mailto:schoolclosure@dps.swecet.org)

Stifford Clays: [schoolclosure@scp.swecet.org](mailto:schoolclosure@scp.swecet.org)

Please note, the usual school admin emails *are not being monitored* and our offices are closed so our phones cannot be answered. However, the above email accounts are checked several times a day and someone will respond as soon as possible.



#### Free School Meal Vouchers

You will be aware that our Trust acted quickly to ensure those families entitled to a free school meal were not disadvantaged whilst the Government organised a central scheme.

The central scheme is coming on line soon and as schools we are now working directly with the Government's providers to ensure that they have all the details they need.

In the meantime, over Easter, our Trust has decided to continue to support those families entitled to free school meals by continuing to make another payment.

*Please note: "Free School Meals" are those given to children from families on low incomes/benefits and must meet specific criteria. These are the children the latest guidance says schools must help during closure. "Universal Free Meals" is something different and is the fact that the Government offers a free meal to all children in KS1 and reception when*



in school. The latest guidance is not continuing this provision as it is impossible - it is relating only to those "eligible" for a free school meal.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/voucher-scheme-launches-for-schools-providing-free-school-meals>



### Home Schooling Work

We are very aware that many families cannot print and so the work we have set will take this into account. Before the end of

the Easter break, work for "Week Three" and "Week Four" will be on the websites.

Chadwell

<https://www.chadwellstmaryprimary.co.uk/home-learning-1/>

Deneholm

<http://www.deneholmprimaryschool.co.uk/WFH>

Stifford Clays

<https://www.stiffordclaysprimary.thurrock.sch.uk/parents/additonal-school-closure-work>

Work will be posted in fortnightly batches thereafter until we return.

Do look out for the Daily Tweets on Twitter which contain a Learning Idea for each week day:

@ChadwellStMary

@DeneholmSWECET

@StiffordSWECET

**Please follow us on Twitter**



### Pastoral Support During The Closure

We know that this is a very stressful and confusing time for children, families, staff and school communities. We would like to offer support and guidance to our families who may need this during this difficult time. If your child is struggling to cope with the changes to their routine, are particularly anxious or worried and/or are displaying challenging behaviour, we can offer you some support and advice. To access this support, please email the appropriate school closure address putting it for the attention of the pastoral team. This will then be forwarded on to them for you.

To help you with anxieties and questions that you and your children may have, we have also listed below links to resources that might be helpful.

Child friendly explanation of

Coronavirus: [https://660919d3-b85b-43c3-a3ad-3de6a9d37099.filesusr.com/ugd/64c685\\_0a595408de2e4bfcbf1539dcf6ba4b89.pdf](https://660919d3-b85b-43c3-a3ad-3de6a9d37099.filesusr.com/ugd/64c685_0a595408de2e4bfcbf1539dcf6ba4b89.pdf)

Childline Tool Box has a calm zone where you can access activities, breathing exercises, yoga, games and videos on ways to cope with our worries and emotions

[https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/?fbclid=IwAR2UDQgDr54URa1T6\\_pXFAJTxI3PpVt6dkR1dDHiyN4IrWpuocfTuRpUPQ8](https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/?fbclid=IwAR2UDQgDr54URa1T6_pXFAJTxI3PpVt6dkR1dDHiyN4IrWpuocfTuRpUPQ8)

A mouse took a stroll through the deep dark wood.  
A fox saw the mouse and two metres away he stood.  
"Where are you going to, little brown mouse?  
I hope it's one of the four reasons you can leave your house?"  
"It's terribly kind of you to check, Fox, and yes.



I'm going home, saving lives and protecting the NHS."



### Local Authority Support

Thurrock Council are providing a Thurrock Coronavirus Community Action support offer. They are working with partners in Thurrock to provide help for those most in need during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Thurrock Coronavirus Community Action is a partnership led by the Council, Stronger Together and Thurrock CVS, working with local organisations to safely coordinate support and volunteers.

Please use the link below for more information:

<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-community-support/thurrock-coronavirus-community-action>

### News Links for Children

In school each week, teachers use a range of news stories to keep children aware of the wider world, interest them in what is happening and to develop their general knowledge and interest.

While we are closed, you may wish to use these links with your children to read the stories together and to discuss them. You can decide what is of interest to your child/ren but all are suitable for all ages.



The RSPB Big Garden Watch Results are in!

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/big-gardenbirdwatch/2020/uk-results.pdf>

Can you spot any of these birds out of your window?  
Make a tally chart to record how many of each type you see. Try to look before 10am or after 3pm as

*garden/urban birds tend to rest during the middle part of the day!*

Coronavirus: 'Lonely' lockdown boy, 7, seeks pen pals - BBC News

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-52106954>

*A great article to use to talk about how we are all feeling. Could you "write" to a friend? Perhaps using email to a cousin? This is a great way to get children writing for a real purpose.*

From Spiderman artist to drawing teacher - BBC News

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-52070631/the-marvel-spiderman-artist-teaching-children-in-ireland-to-draw>

*Click on the video to amaze and inspire your children to draw.*

Close-up footage of Arkansas tornado - BBC News

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-us-canada-52081871/close-up-footage-of-arkansas-tornado>

*In school, we always try to have something each week about the weather for children to see what is happening in other parts of the world. They will love this video.*

A nostalgic spin around the history of the funfair - BBC Ideas

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/ideas/videos/a-nostalgic-spin-around-the-history-of-the-funfair/p087fnp9>

*Share this with your child and discuss how funfairs have changed. Ask, what is their favourite ride and why?*

### SMSC Key Events

An important part of our schools' curriculum is Developing children's Spiritual, Moral, Social



And Cultural selves. Each week, we will provide upcoming events or dates with a brief explanation:

Next week, the SMSC events are:

5th - Ch'ing Ming Festival (Taiwan, China)

6th - Chakri Day (Thailand)

7th - World Health Day / HUG Day

8th - Roma Day

9th - Palm Sunday (Christian).

*Can you research them with your child/ren?*



### Links for Learning

For the next two weeks, we aren't suggesting you undertake formal learning but we thought you might like this idea. If you haven't got tissue paper, you can use little coloured bits cut from a magazine, colour tissues first and then stick or just colour the plastic directly using sharpies or felts.

### Make elmer the elephant ❤️



### Emergency Child Care Provision

If you need to contact us regarding Key Worker Child Care provision, the email address FOR ALL CHILDREN is [schoolclosure@scp.swecet.org](mailto:schoolclosure@scp.swecet.org).



*Please email us if your child is on the registered list and is not attending on any day.*



### And finally something to keep the adults going...

Our offer to keep adults smiling this week is in the form of two videos:

Covid-19 Les Miserables-style – truly brilliant!

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/video/2020/mar/31/kent-family-coronavirus-lockdown-adaptation-les-miserables-song-goes-viral-video>

If you are fed up of watching Disney Movies – try this alternative medley...

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=IVC01GxFwDg>