

# Team Bartons



## Bartons Primary School COVID-19 Newsletter 3 14th April 2020



Well, another week in lockdown has passed and I hope that you all had a good Easter and the Easter bunny managed to deliver Easter eggs to you all. I expect it was a more 'low key' occasion for you but at least the sun shone and it was enjoyable to be outdoors, even if it was just in the garden or was just for a short time whilst you were able to go outdoors for your daily walk or exercise. It is times like these that we can all really appreciate the outdoors and I have been enjoying going out once a day with my son for long bike rides. I have found it amazing how both of us are seeing so much more on our doorstep around Graylingwell. Looking more closely at trees and plants growing, spotting bluebells and hearing bird song more clearly in the quiet. I hope that you all have experienced things like this too.

I hope that the children are having some downtime and a break from their school work whilst we are all having a break. School work will resume next week and I hope that the children will come back to it with the enthusiasm that they have shown us in the last few weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to firstly say thank you to all of the teachers for the brilliant and creative activities that they have been setting for the children. They rose to the challenge and have loved having a different relationship with their pupils. I would also like parents to know that behind the scenes, all staff are working hard to keep school going. Teaching assistants are home learning, office staff are doing the day-to-day admin work from home, Mrs A. Powell and I are still ensuring everything runs smoothly and premises staff are keeping the school clean and running. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated staff. Thank you everyone!

### Week Beginning Tuesday 14th April

This week, school is closed completely. Please remember that you can email us if you need any help/advice or leave a message on the answer phone. Although the office isn't manned everyday, someone will come back to you when they can. This week families find out about Reception school places for September. This year, we were over subscribed again for places so good luck to everyone who applied.

### Free School Meals

As I reported last week, the government have put in place a scheme whereby schools can organise shopping vouchers for those families registered for free school meals in this period of lockdown. Please note that this is not the same for the children in Years R, 1 and 2 scheme in receipt of the universal free school meal. Edenred, the company instructed by the government, have had initial problems in setting this process up but I am pleased to say that this morning, I have been able to order the vouchers online and they should be sent directly via email to families by the 20th April. These vouchers can then be redeemed against shopping from your supermarket of choice and should be done within a month. It has been very frustrating trying to organise these vouchers because the national company have had major system outages over the last few weeks but I am hopeful that this has now been sorted. Please get in touch with us if nothing appears after the 20th April.

So for now keep going, take care, stay safe and well all of you.

Here is my quote of hope for this week:

*'Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow.'* by Helen Keller.

Have a good week! With very best wishes  
Kate Powell.