



2019-2020

Number 24

18th March 2020

An Lester Trumach - The Packet Ship

Dear Parents and Carers,

In line with updated government COVID- 19 guidelines we are making some changes to planned procedures and activities at Marlborough School.

In order to reduce footfall in to the school we will be asking children to **enter the school building through their classroom doors**. Parents are to say their goodbyes before the children come into school and not enter the classrooms. A member of staff will be at each doorway so you can pass on any messages, for any non-urgent messages please email office@marlborough.cornwall.sch.uk with the subject line *FOA Class teachers name*.

Unfortunately, we will also have to cancel the planned class outcomes. All external visits and visitors are postponed. After school clubs will continue as these are generally in-house.

The government have released updated [Stay at Home Guidelines](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection). Please read these carefully as the guidance has now changed and anyone showing symptoms needs to self isolate for 14 days, alongside all other household family members.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If your child is off school can you please inform us by email at office@marlborough.cornwall.sch.uk as the phone lines are being used for essential communications. Please can you make it clear in your email the reason for absence; are you choosing to self isolate due to increased risk or is the child or family member displaying symptoms of Coronavirus?

We receive daily updates from the Department for Education and the World Health Organisation and will keep you updated with current advice. This is a very difficult time for everyone and we are doing our best to keep school life as normal as possible for the children, being conscious of their physical and mental wellbeing, whilst dealing with regular government updates and changes. Many thanks for your support.

Department for Education Coronavirus helpline

The DfE have launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

An accompanying poster (alongside this newsletter) has more information.

Coronavirus Cancellations

As all visits and visitors are currently cancelled for the foreseeable future there will not be a Cake Bake this week. The Spring Festival has also been cancelled this year, including the Paint the Town Yellow day and the Flower Festival.

<http://www.marlborough.cornwall.sch.uk/website>



Home/School Communication

It is vital that parents and carers keep up to date with information and updates. Can you please ensure that we have your correct contact details in the office. We are setting up Google Classroom for each pupil in Years 3 to 6 in the event that school is closed, parents of pupils in Reception, Year 1 and 2 will have emails with set tasks. This means that teachers can communicate with parents and pupils, setting home learning tasks, giving feedback and checking in with wellbeing and progress. The communication will be online but the tasks will include a range of activities in order to ensure pupils are not increasing their screen time.

The Big Dig

We managed to carry out the Big Dig last Friday before sanctions changed the way the school community work together. What an amazing day it was. The amount of support from the community was astounding; parents, grandparents, friends and Cormac all came along to develop the outside spaces for the school and work alongside our pupils to give them such a rich experience. We had many donations from companies for materials, planting beds were created and filled, seeds were planted, art work was created and cakes were baked and eaten so thank you to everyone who helped us. The playgrounds are revitalised and so were the children! Massive thanks to Sascha and Ilona for organising the day. As we are becoming increasingly limited in the amount of human contact we can have, let's remind ourselves of the amazing things we have managed as a community and hope that we will be able to be a community again in the near future.

Mariners News

Clothes and Toys Swap

The mariners are organising a children's clothes and toys swap session in the school hall from 2.30pm until 4.30pm on Thursday 16th of April. Please can any donations be brought in to school on the morning of the swap.

Sponsored Cycle Meeting

In light of COVID-19 we will postpone the planning meeting for the Sponsored Cycle Ride. A new date will be decided after the Easter break.

Yellow Fish Campaign

In the summer, the whole school are going to be part of the design team creating a mural to be displayed on the fence along the footpath leading down from Marlborough Avenue to Meadowside Road. This will be in conjunction with the Yellow Fish Campaign, encouraging wildlife back into the stream from Tregonigge all the way to Swanpool. They need mural painters to work alongside the Year 6 pupils who will be helping with the project. If you are able to help with the mural design please speak to Abi Squibb who will pass your details on to Claire Lewis and Jacqui Owen who are leading the project.

Dates for the diary

Friday 27th March – Tempest Class and Sports Team photos

Monday 30th March to 13th April – Easter Holidays

Tuesday 14th April - Back to School, Start of the Summer Term

Packet Points						
This week score table				Termly score table		
Position	Team	Weekly Points	Weekly Score	Position	Team	Termly Score
1 st	Swiftsure	200	7	1 st	Swiftsure	87
2 nd	Freeling	158	5	2 nd	Walsingham	74
3 rd	Walsingham	154	4	3 rd	Chichester	66
4 th	Pelham	124	3	4 th	Pelham	56
5 th	Chichester	104	2	5 th	Freeling	53
6 th	Fox	99	1	6 th	Fox	41

<http://www.marlborough.cornwall.sch.uk/website>



Our Cabinet Members met the Mayor.



The Big Dig!



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Educational Psychologist Support Ideas

Our Educational Psychologist, Sarah Canavan-King, has very kindly sent out support materials to help any children that may have needs relating to high anxieties, fear of loss, trauma and how they might be processing the current situation. The following might be helpful to you:

There's a brainpop video on the coronavirus for younger children (but may also be relevant for older students considering their developmental age)

<https://www.brainpop.com/health/diseasesinjuriesandconditions/coronavirus/>

There is a link to a video that might be more suited to older students here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/health-51883255/coronavirus-explained-in-60-seconds>

A story on the ELSA (emotional literacy support assistant) website: <https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/coronavirus-story-for-children/>

And a more basic social story (which may support students with Autism);

<https://theautismeducator.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/The-Corona-Virus-Free-Printable-Updated-2-The-Autism-Educator-.pdf>

There is also some support for parents (this is based on info from another EP working in a school in Hong Kong, where the schools have closed):

Helping children manage in unsettling times.

The novel Coronavirus outbreak has led to a high degree of worry, uncertainty and concern. The issue has been very present in the news, and all adults and children will have some degree of awareness of events so far, and may have had their lives disrupted.

During these times both children and adults can potentially feel anxious and unsure about their safety. Alongside school, parents can help provide opportunities where feelings can be discussed within a safe context, as well as maintaining a sense of normality, routine and calm. Supporting children will enable them to process and manage their feelings and build resilience.

The following suggestions may be helpful:

- Reassure children that they are safe: Children will need to be reassured regularly they are safe, and that adults will faithfully try to keep them safe.
- Let children know that it is alright to be upset: Tell children all feelings are OK, but it is important to still behave in a polite and respectful way to others.
- Maintain a normal routine: Set up a work/leisure/exercise routine for students at home. Make extra time to listen to what your children need to tell you.
- Place an emphasis on resilience and strengths: Focus on the child's skills, in terms of their daily life. Help them see they have many strengths to help them cope if feeling anxious or upset.
- Look for opportunities to help others: Acts of benevolence, charity and humanity help to restore positivity about the world.
- Provide opportunities for children to be honest about their feelings: Sharing worries or feelings of upset with other family members reduces a sense of vulnerability and isolation, raises optimism and self esteem. Checking in with your children to see if they have any worries can help them start these conversations.
- Provide opportunities for physical exercise: Exercise is valuable in developing natural chemicals in the brain to help us cope with feelings such as shock or worry.
- Communicate any concerns with school: If you have any worries or concerns about your child's emotional behaviour please do let the school know. There will be things the school can do to help further.
- Look after yourself: A time of stress can mean less energy and more potential for illness for you, as well as others. So please take care of yourself.

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