



Wednesday, 29 April 2020

THE CORBET SCHOOL

Headteacher Dr Jane Tinker BSc MA(Ed) EdD NPQH

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to the fourth weekly update and I hope that you are all continuing to cope with things, in the April showers that are long overdue for the gardens at least. There is not much to update you on this week, things continue as they were with regard to the work being set on SMHW and we are continuing to discuss the submission of work and the support that you are receiving. I have sent out with this update '*Supporting home learning routines – Planning the day*' which is a great way of moving through these very unusual times with a focus on work, wellbeing and communication to help us all through. I would also like to let you know that we have had no further guidance about when and how schools will reopen and like you I will be glad to be back into our old routines as soon as we can be. Throughout the whole Coronavirus crisis, schools have heard things at the same time as the public, through the Government Daily Briefings; we do not have any information in advance and as soon as I know more I will let you know in the usual way by email, website and the Facebook page. I would also like to thank everyone that entered the Wildlife Photography competition, I very much enjoyed looking at the photographs and am glad that you are connecting with nature during this lockdown period.

School closure: Please note that school will be closed for the Bank Holiday on Friday 8th May 2020. On Friday 8th May (Bank Holiday), teachers will not be asked to set daily work for students or to reply to messages on Show My Homework sent during this time.

VE day: Watch out in next week's update for some ideas about how to join in the Virtual VE Day celebrations and remember Captain Tom on his 100th birthday tomorrow an example of how one small, kind act can grow and have such an impact on the world.

Whole school communication: We will continue with the weekly update on a Wednesday and please do continue to look out for e-mail updates throughout the week from other members of staff.

Due to school being closed and only skeleton staff in school please can we ask that if you need to contact us to do so via email: admin@corbetschool.net. This will allow us to direct your question to our staff who are mostly now working from home.

Teaching & Learning: Our approach to schoolwork and a 'working from home timetable' for KS3 was outlined in emails sent out to parents and in messages posted on Show My Homework (SMHW) for the pupils by Mr Simms. Please email admin@corbetschool.net if you would like another copy of any of these documents.

Within the 'Home learning support pack', a key message to be mindful of is: *Pupils working from home is very different from when they are in school. Expectations of pupils need to*

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reflect the fact that independent work is very taxing. Please be realistic about home schooling.

The approximate amount time to be spent on each piece of work will be detailed below the description on SMHW. Our suggestion is that if parents feel that the amount of work being set by teachers is not sufficient to occupy their children, they access the number of free online resources being made available nationally.

All pupils should be accessing SMHW daily to ensure they don't miss work or messages from their teachers.

We feel that our approach to schoolwork needs to be very much a generic one in these times; we are not available to support the pupils on an individual basis as we would in school. Furthermore, teachers are learning to cope with working from home and in many cases supporting their own children. Therefore, most teachers will only be able to provide detailed feedback on work periodically; the method of pupils submitting work to their teachers and the subsequent feedback will be explained in the description on SMHW. However, as explained in the 'Home learning support pack', pupils can request feedback from their teachers on any work which hasn't been specifically requested to be 'submitted' by sending a message on SMHW.

We also believe the delivering of lessons via video conferencing could potentially be very divisive and problematic, considering many pupils will not have appropriate devices or knowledge to access such systems. We are concerned that attempting an approach of this nature could be quite damaging to pupils' and families' well-being.

Year 9 Options Choices: Letters informing Year 9 pupils of their 'options subjects' will be posted soon.

Pupil Support: We are aware that there are still issues with Edenred and its portal for Free School Meal vouchers due to the high demand. If you continue to experience problems with Edenred then please email admin@corbetschool.net with details of the specific problem.

Year 10: On Monday 27th April, Mr Hartshorn and the Year 10 tutors messaged pupils via SMHW to see how they were coping during the current lockdown. If your child has not replied to the message, please prompt them to do so.

Menu for next week: For pupils in school next week the menu is: Monday Chicken epic, lattice fries and beans, Tuesday Roast Pork dinner, Wednesday Sweet and sour pork noodles and Thursday Cheese and tomato pasta bake and sweetcorn. There are no charges for lunches to pupils in school at this time.

Wellbeing: Wellbeing and access to services. Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Beam are offering a call-back service for pupils that normally access their drop-in services. Children over 13 or their parents/ carers if they are under 13 can e mail AskBeam@childrenssociety.org.uk. Beam offer telephone counselling rather than urgent

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help. There is also lots of information on their website about helping young people with their wellbeing. It is important pupils stay active during lockdown so today on SMHW are lots of dance and fitness videos for pupils and their parents to try at home.

Site access: In line with recent guidance on 'non-essential travel', neither students or parents/guardians will be able to come into school to collect items. We will update you when the situation changes.

Finally, please continue to contact us with any questions and concerns using the admin email address and stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely

Jane Tinker.

Dr Jane Tinker
Headteacher

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