Dear Parents and Carers

As we begin the seventh week of school closures, we hope that families are keeping safe and well. There has been a lot of speculation in the news about when schools are likely to reopen. The government has not given a date yet but the York Schools and Academies Board have issued a statement about the reopening of schools which you can find on the second page of this newsletter.

Despite reaching the peak of infections, it’s vital we all still follow the social distancing guidance:

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home).
- Stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people.
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home.

Visit the NHS website for more information on social distancing, stopping the spread of infection and looking after your health and wellbeing.

Support with food deliveries, prescription collections and more

Anyone who has been told to stay indoors for 12 weeks, or who has difficulty getting to the shops/chemists, paying for food or just booking a supermarket online delivery, can:

Phone: 01904 551550 or
Email: covid19help@york.gov.uk

to get assistance from the new City of York Council hubs. Help is available for people who are in financial difficulties and also for those who can afford to pay for supplies but are unable to get out or to get help from family or neighbours.

Well done to the Easter Craft Competition winners!

Ella from New Earswick Primary School

Bobby from Tang Hall Primary School

Stanislaw from Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School

Each winner will get a £10 Amazon gift voucher.

Coronavirus: information and advice

We have setup a page on the Pathfinder website where you can find the latest information and updates, including copies of our weekly newsletter.
York Schools and Academies Board statement about the reopening of schools

All schools in the City of York are represented on the York Schools and Academies Board (YSAB). It is important to make clear that our schools are, in one form or another, currently “open” to two groups of pupils: our vulnerable pupils and to the children of key workers. In this statement, “reopening” schools refers to reopening our schools to pupils beyond those two groups.

YSAB is committed to ensuring that our pupils and staff return to work in our schools as soon as possible. Ultimately, the reopening of schools will be determined by central government; York’s local response will be to implement that national decision as it has been with the current period of partial closure.

Current COVID-19 guidance from the DfE states that Local authorities are responsible for coordinating a response to the new arrangements. Whilst the decision to reopen a school rests with each individual school's headteacher and governing body/trust board, we are committed to reopening York’s schools in a coordinated fashion.

YSAB is committed to reopening York’s schools as soon as the government’s expert medical advice declares it is safe to reopen schools. We acknowledge that reopening primary schools will require different practical procedures compared to reopening secondary schools; likewise, fully reopening our special schools will entail different practical procedures to our mainstream schools.

Some good news stories from our schools

Pupils from St Lawrence’s CE Primary School have been celebrating Earth day which takes place every year on 22 April. Headteacher, Helen Coles, said: “It was fantastic to see so many children getting involved with some hands-on learning in their gardens and creating posters to encourage people to look after the beautiful world we live in. Well done everyone!”

Tang Hall Primary School pupil Kai is aiming to walk and run 100 miles during May to raise money for the NHS. Kai said: “I’m not feeling nervous, I’m a bit excited and want to start running.” Read the story on the Press website.

Lola, also from Tang Hall, has written a poem about the strange and sometimes frustrating world of the coronavirus lockdown. Lola’s father has created a video of Lola reading the poem which you can check out on YouTube.

Activities a few ideas to help keep children occupied...

Thank a Teacher

It’s National Thank a Teacher Day on Wednesday 20 May. Get involved by sharing a video of thanks, sing a song or draw a picture to say thank you to your teachers and support staff for their amazing work not only in these challenging times but all year round. Visit thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher-day/ for details and share your messages of thanks with us on Twitter @PathfinderMAT.

Design a stained-glass window

Touchstone Glazing, based in Brighouse, West Yorkshire, are running a competition to design a stained-glass window. Winners will receive a handmade, genuine stained-glass window hanger. One design from all of the entries will also be selected and turned into a stained-glass window to go in school. Visit https://www.designglass.co.uk/competitions for more information and ideas and let us know if you send in a design.