

Iron Acton CEVC Primary School
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Headteacher: Mike Riches



3rd April 2020

Easter greetings from all the staff at Iron Acton

As Easter gets ever closer and today is the final day of Term 4, we would like to wish all of our families a very happy Easter. Today would have been our Easter service but instead, Father Malcolm has kindly put together some words of encouragement for all of us. Some of the children from Buzzards Class have also sent in prayers to help us remember this very important time of year. These can all be found at the end of this newsletter.

School continues to open each day for small number of children from our key worker families. Enormous thanks go to all members of staff at Iron Acton for doing their bit to make this possible. We have now joined together with 3 other schools: Hawkesbury, North Road and Rangeworthy to help keep things running as smoothly as possible during this time. The schools will continue to meet together at Iron Acton during Term 5 and until we reopen again.

We are currently looking to set up a way to share a weekly assembly with you so we can continue to bring the school together even whilst we are closed to most of you. We will let you know when this is ready.

Learning at home

Most children have now managed to access Google Classroom. We realise there were a few log on issues to begin with. Thank you to Miss Abley has worked incredibly hard to get these sorted. If you are yet to log on please do let Miss Abley know using her email address: jessica.abley@ironactonprimaryschool.co.uk

Please do keep in touch with your child's class teacher through Google Classrooms or using their email address. They will be able to help with any issues that may arise. If it all gets too much, please don't worry about getting the activities completed. These are designed to help keep learning going whilst at home but we wouldn't want anything to cause any extra stress for any of our families.

When the children return to school, we will spend a good amount of time finding out where they are in their learning so we can fill any gaps in the curriculum that haven't been covered yet and get them ready to move on as soon as they are able to do so. In the meantime, anything you are able to do will make a difference, no matter how small it may seem - thank you for all you are doing.

Please note: we will not be setting any work over the Easter holidays so that we can make sure you and the teachers have a chance to relax and take a break. Work will be made available again during after the two week break.

Food vouchers

If your child receives free school meals (excluding universal infant free school meals) due to your financial circumstances, you will be entitled to food vouchers to cover the cost of your child's lunches for 5 days each week. You should have received information about this from Mrs Parry but if you have not or if you have any questions, please contact the school office.

We also have vouchers for the Yate and Chipping Sodbury foodbank. Please contact the school office to discuss this confidentially if you feel this may apply to you.

Safeguarding

One of our main purposes as a school remains working alongside families to ensure the safety and wellbeing of every child. If you have any concerns at all about the safety or wellbeing of a child or family please contact Mr Riches or Mrs Bagnall as soon as you can by email so that we can provide the right support.

mike.riches@ironactonprimaryschool.co.uk

sarah.bagnall@ironactonprimaryschool.co.uk

There is also a wealth of information on websites such as the NSPCC which may be able to help:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/>

New classroom update

Some of you may have seen the exciting moment the old classroom was removed from school on a crane. Further work has paused for the time being but we hope it will start again soon; the project should be complete by the time you return to school.

We are also using this quieter time to carry out some other decorating jobs to keep the school looking good. Currently work is being done to improve Golden Eagles Class.

Year 5/6 residential

We have been in contact with The Wilderness who are providing this year's residential trip. If school remains closed when the residential was due to take place, the visit will clearly not be able to go ahead. In this case, we will postpone the visit to a similar date next year. If your child is in Year 6, you will receive a full refund from the school. If your child is in Year 5, we will carry your payments over to next year. We will begin the payment process for those who are new to Year 5 in the autumn term.

Please contact the school office if you have any questions about this.

Staffing update

Mrs Helen Edwards, one of our long standing lunch break supervisors has made the decision to move on from Iron Acton from Easter. Mrs Edwards has been at the school for 8 years and has been an incredibly positive member of the team throughout her time here. She has moved on to work at a local care home; we wish her well in her new role and thank her for her hard work fulfilling a challenging role with us.

We look to advertise this role soon ready for September. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be, please contact the school office and let us know. We would be very pleased to hear from you.

An Easter message from Father Malcolm

Dear Friends

I am taking the opportunity of writing to you as we move towards the great Christian celebration of Easter. This year in the light of the Covid 19 pandemic it will be the first time ever that the churches of our land will not be celebrating this most important festival in church buildings, as they remain closed to all people.

In Iron Acton we have missed out in the last week of term, on the joy of the children telling us the Easter story afresh at St James and on Sunday 12th (Easter Sunday) the church doors will remain closed, no Easter lilies or wild flowers decorating our ancient parish church, no Easter hymns or candles, no bells ringing out across the village. Just a strange stillness as we all self-isolate together whilst our amazing NHS battles to save lives from the potential devastating effects of Covid 19.

But all is not gloom, for in the Easter story there is hope for us all for two clear reasons. Firstly, we are reminded that through Jesus, God enters our human condition, he experiences our joys and sadness, our laughter and our tears, he endures our pain and suffering through the cross on Good Friday, he knows what it is to be human and to face the struggles of life. Secondly on Easter day through his Resurrection we glimpse his divine glory, we are given the hope of a new beginning, as Love is seen to conquer all and we are restored to each other and to God our father for all time.

As we face these coming months let us cling on to this promise of hope and love. We can already see so many examples of people living it out in their lives as they reach out and support each other in our adversity. The promise of Easter is clear it is abundant in hope for everyone, God walks with us in our struggle and promises a new beginning, whatever might be thrown at us, through the power of his unconditional love.

Please be assured of my prayers and Easter Blessing for each of you, your families and all whom you love at his time.

God Bless

Father Malcolm

Please do join us for our Easter Service online at 11am on Easter Sunday at:

<https://www.fromsidechurches.org.uk/messages-resources-for-the-current-crisis/>

An Easter prayer written by Jai (Year 4)

Dear God,

Thank you that you always listen.

Thank you that you died on the cross to take away our sins.

Thank you for Easter day and the chocolate eggs which are empty and hollow like your tomb.

You beat death and we pray that you will beat this virus.

Amen.