



Shrewsbury Road, Church Stretton Telephone 01694 722209
Shropshire, SY6 6EX E admin@csschool.co.uk
www.churchstretton.shropshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer, staff and Students

I write to you all with my best wishes at what we know has been a difficult week. As all schools in our country now close for the time being, it is an unsettling time for us all. We have been very appreciative of the messages of support and understanding of pupils, parents / carers and of course our staff.

Although schools are closing, we are all still members of the Church Stretton community and we will all be navigating the next phase together. As a staff we are determined to keep contact going with you all, and to keep activities and education going too. We know that it is important to provide our young people with some routine and engagement over the next few weeks. We want you to stay in touch with us please, especially to let us know about any health or welfare matters.

Distance learning:

Can we remind you all, that the system we are using (Go4Schools) was not originally designed to be used as a distance learning package – and we have had to adapt our school communication systems to meet this unexpected challenge. We think it will be fit for purpose but are aware that in the short term there may be some frustrations. Thank you very much for your understanding.

Information from Transport

“Following the latest Government advice that schools are to open for those parents and carers that are classed as “Critical Workers” or have children with an EHCP or are vulnerable, we will operate as far as possible the home to school transport network from Monday 23 March 2020. At the same time some public transport routes will be reduced from Monday 23 March and details of this can be found on the Council’s website. Please be aware that as the situation develops these services may be amended and we will of course need to take account of any schools that are closed due to staffing levels or COVID-19, we will continue to advise parents and carers as much as we can and should you have any concerns please contact the Council’s customer service team on 03456789008. We really appreciate the cooperation of all our operators’ drivers and passenger assistants as we navigate our way through this fast developing situation.”

Key Workers: A small number of students who have parents working in front line roles, will be attending our re-purposed school for a small number of our pupils. We have been asked to keep this number to an absolute minimum because of the need to support social distancing. School will endeavour to do our best to provide continuity of learning for all children whether at home or in school, but the provision in school is likely to be more akin to childcare than a normal timetable.

Can we thank the staff who have been assigned to this work. We are all very grateful to you all and the service you are providing to these families and therefore to society.

Message to our Yr 7, 8 9, and 10 students:

Students, we want to wish you every success in this big change to the way we will all be working. It will be worth remembering that everyone in the country is having to cope with the same challenges and we need you to do

Executive Headteacher
Mrs Sarah Godden BA MEd
E head@oldburywells.com

Trust Office
c/o Oldbury Wells School
Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 5JD
T 01746 765454 F 01746 762746
E admin@oldburywells.com

your best, we know it won't be easy. We want you to talk to your families if things are very hard or not working well for you, so that they can help and they can let us know.

We are very proud of the way our year 8 pupils have coped this week with Go 4 Schools learning. We feel confident that other year groups will do well too. Currently Year 8 have been using this exceptionally well with the vast majority of pupils logging in every day.

Your teachers are all aiming to use your current timetables as the basis for your work at home. They will be looking at how you are doing at the time that they would normally teach you. We suggest you try to keep to the same timings too if you can.

And keep reading at least 30 minutes per day! We are making the Accelerated Reader quiz function available to you all, so please look out for the link to this through Go 4 Schools.

Message to our Yr 11 students:

We know that the changes in schooling and examinations have been especially hard for you all. You have worked so hard and were getting yourselves in gear for the final push to the summer exams. Your teachers were too.

At the time of writing we have not yet received any further information from the government regarding how Year 11 students will be awarded their GCSE grades. As soon as we do, we will be in touch to inform you.

During the next few weeks we want to provide you with some structure and focus for the long weeks ahead. You will do best if you keep to a routine, and have some formal activity and engagement. We will be working out some suitable activities for you to do, to help prepare you for next phase in your education / work for the next academic year. Please check Go 4 Schools regularly along with the rest of the school to see these activities as they get designed by your teachers.

Unresolved and emerging issues: Obviously, as school is closed, and all calendared events will now not take place. Some will unfortunately be cancelled, but others may be postponed until next year. We are unpicking and resolving school matters one thing at a time, so please bear with us if there is an outstanding issue that you are waiting for a response to. We have had to prioritise our work this week to manage this situation. There are several implications of these changes that we have not yet started working on. Thank you for your patience.

At the time of writing this letter there is still significant uncertainty as to the duration of the school closure, our intention is to keep in regular contact with you and update you with school information during the forthcoming weeks via Go 4 Schools, letters, email and our school website.

All the staff and governors at Church Stretton School have asked us to pass on their best wishes to all pupils and their families. Remember - let's take care of ourselves and each other.

Yours sincerely

John Parr
Headteacher