

Dear Parents/Carers

I trust you and your families are well and adjusting to life in these challenging times. As mentioned previously, I intend to write to parents/carers weekly during term time, throughout the general closure period, to keep you updated in relation to all matters affecting your children's education at this time.

Registering as vulnerable

The government has encouraged all those who are especially clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 to register for support. If you think this may apply to you, or a member of your family, please do look at the government advice and register if appropriate. <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable>

Partial Opening and the Easter Holidays

Bristol Free School continues to remain partially open for children of key workers, and for those in other vulnerable categories. We continue to support a small number of families with this on site provision and we are very grateful to all those parents and carers, who in line with government guidance, are managing to keep their children at home safely. We will be open during the Easter break (with the exception of bank holidays) to provide childcare for the children of key workers only. Those who are eligible for this will be contacted directly. I am grateful to all the school staff who have volunteered to be in over the holidays to ensure that we can provide this service.

Remote Learning

After Easter, we will continue to set work online for students who are now learning remotely. We use the 'Show My Homework' online platform which then directs students to the range of learning platforms used to set work.

I am sending out a parent/carer survey to ask for constructive feedback on your experiences so far, so as we move into the second phase of home learning, we can adapt and improve this new way of working. Getting the balance right, in terms of the amount of work we set, is very challenging. Some families would like more work, and others are struggling with the amount of work currently being set. We are aware that families are under intense pressure at the moment and that people's circumstances will differ hugely. Please rest assured that we understand the challenges you face - many of us are also supporting our own children with their schoolwork!

Please do not feel under pressure to 'home school' your children or ensure that they complete *all* the work set if this is not feasible for your particular circumstances. We will set work diligently, and engage with students who are not submitting it, and increasingly we will offer optional extension tasks for those who do want more work. Please bear with us as we seek to get the balance right.

Year 11 have been sent an update this week from Mr Fernandes regarding the way GCSE grades are going to be awarded and the importance of maintaining study routines. Mr Fernandes will be writing to all after Easter to explain what students can expect in terms of feedback on their work. We know that it is very important for students to have high-quality feedback on their work, but we are also conscious that many of our staff teach hundreds of students and have their own challenges at the moment as regards childcare. Again, we will aim to clearly communicate what you can expect, but we would ask that you bear with us if staff are ill or unable to complete marking at a given time due to increased childcare demands.

Teachers will not be setting learning tasks on SMHW over the Easter holiday fortnight.

Everyone here at school would like to thank you for your fantastic support over these last couple of very strange weeks of term. We would like to pass on our best wishes to every member of our extended school community and please be assured that our thoughts are very much with you all, and we wish to support you as we all adjust to this new way of living and learning. Even in these extraordinary circumstances, we do hope you enjoy a well-deserved Easter break.

With kind regards

Mrs S. King, Headteacher

Parent Survey—Home Learning Phase 1

We welcome your feedback and thoughts on your experiences of home learning so far. Please access, complete and submit the survey via the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/H3CJ85L>

Your feedback will prove invaluable as we adapt and improve this new way of working for the second phase of home learning after Easter.

Year 9 Options

Mr Fernandes and Mrs Conway will also be contacting parents/carers of students in Year 9 this week and ongoing to advise on next steps as regards GCSE options.

We hope that this will help Year 9 students and parents and give clarity on the path ahead.

Communicating with Teachers through SMHW and Google classrooms

It's been really encouraging to see students engaging with remote learning, particularly through SMHW and Google classrooms.

When posting work for teachers to access, it is important for students to remember that their images and communication must be appropriate.

Even though we may not physically be in classrooms at the present time, the expectations linked to appropriate communication still apply.

Please do check and ask your child to amend their images if necessary.

Student Email Accounts

All students have a school email account which they are able to use to contact teachers for learning purposes and to contact us for pastoral support if needed via:

pastoralmanagers@bristolfreeschool.org.uk

If students do need to contact teachers, we would ask that they use their school email account and not a personal email account. All students will have accessed their email account in Computing lessons. Please email us via admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk and we will be able to reset it for them if necessary. Please find attached the 'Student ICT - Safe and Acceptable Use Agreement' which all students should adhere to when using school email accounts and ICT.

Trip Refunds

I would like to assure parents/carers that our finance team are working on processing refunds for trips which will now not go ahead.

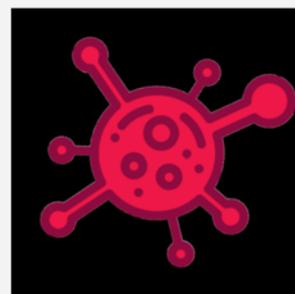
Due to the high number of refunds that schools are processing through ParentPay, refunds are taking longer than hoped - our apologies for this. We now anticipate that refunds will be with parents by the end of next week, although some parents will be refunded sooner.

Parents/carers will receive separate emails when we have been able to action refunds for trips that they have paid for. We are conscious that families may be anxious to receive funds back given the current climate and want to assure you that we are doing all we can to get money back to you as soon as possible.

**Children's
COMMISSIONER**

Click on the link below to access the Children's guide to Coronavirus

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/cco-childrens-guide-to-coronavirus.pdf>





Bristol Free School Easter Challenge

As this Easter holiday is going to be a little different from normal we are launching the Bristol Free School Easter Challenge! The aim of the Easter Challenge is to look at the subjects you study in school in a new way, have fun and compete for prizes.

There are ten challenges below that you can complete from the safety of your own homes – we invite you to complete as many of them as you would like to (bonus points for those completing all ten!) and e-mail your completed challenges to Easterchallenge@bristolfreeschool.org.uk

The Challenges:

- 1) **BIOLOGY:** Find the strangest living organism in your house or garden (NOT one of your family members!)
 - Use the internet to identify your organism
 - Identify which Kingdom it belongs to (Animal, Plant or Fungus)
 - Draw the organism
 - Research and submit 5 interesting facts about your organism
- 2) **ENGLISH:**
 - Find something in your house that starts with each letter of the alphabet
 - Write a story that involves all 26 of the objects you have just found
- 3) **FOOD TECHNOLOGY:**
 - The BFS Easter Bake Off – for more details on this challenge join the Bake Off Google Classroom using code: tmiuaww
- 4) **COMPUTER SCIENCE:**
 - Easter programming challenge – Develop a program to calculate how many calories are in all the Easter Eggs/chocolate you receive.
 - Hint: input required to ask how many eggs, process required to calculate total calories, output required to give the result.
 - Eggstra Challenge 1: Compare the number of eggs eaten against recommended daily calorie allowance and output a suitable message depending whether the user is under or has gone over the amount. Can adapt for any type of food.
 - Eggstra Challenge 2: Develop a quiz using Python with an Easter theme
Use the programming challenge support on Classrooms to help!
- 5) **DT:** Choose one of the following:
 - Design a device that will protect a hard-boiled egg when it is dropped from a height
 - Design some packaging for a new Easter egg
 - Design a card game or board game with an Easter theme
 - Make an Easter hat to wear during your Easter celebrations
 - Build an Easter egg/bunny using Lego or other construction toys



Bristol Free School Easter Challenge Continued

6) ART/PHOTOGRAPHY:

- Hidden letters – find the hidden letters of the alphabet around your home (like the ones in the picture)
- Make your name out of photos of hidden letters – bonus points for creativity!



7) PE

- Design a new game to help you and your family stay fit
- The game must be playable indoors and not need any equipment that you are not likely to have lying around the house
- Submit the name of your game, how to play and rules

8) MUSIC

- Rewrite the lyrics to a famous song to make it about social isolation due to the Corona virus (you can find the lyrics to most songs online to get you started).
- Bonus points for making it funny!

9) GEOGRAPHY & HISTORY

- Research different Easter traditions from across the world and through history.
- Compile a list of your top 10 favourites (or weirdest).
- Put the list in order with 1 being the strangest.
- Discuss the top 3 with your family - Why might they be different to the way that we celebrate Easter? Would you want to give up how we celebrate Easter to follow a new tradition from another country?
- Challenge: Come up with your own symbol to represent the 10 different Easter traditions from other countries and map these onto a world map

10) RE:

- Research and find out what happened to Jesus on:
 - Palm Sunday
 - Maundy Thursday
 - Good Friday
 - Easter Sunday
- Challenge: Explain why Christians believed Jesus died using these key words: sacrifice, resurrection, incarnation, salvation, atonement.

11) MATHS:

- Research the Golden Ratio or the Fibonacci Sequence - can you make a poster explaining either (or both) of these concepts using diagrams and pictures to help.

12) ALL SUBJECTS – PUN CHALLENGE:

- Make a poster containing as many subject-based puns as you can.
 - E.g. King Henry VIII has six wives but that is just his story (History – geddit?!)
 - E.g. I'm rubbish at decimals because I don't see the point

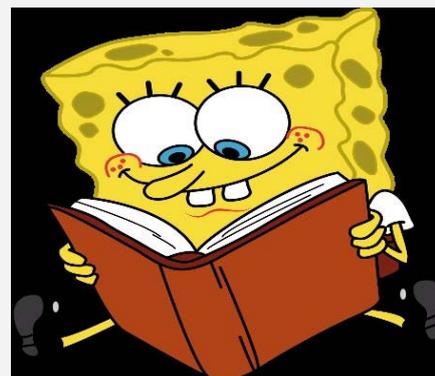
Keep Reading

With time on our hands there really is no excuse not to be reading.

Here are a few suggestions about how to access a range of reading material.

Audible are offering hundreds of books free for young people to listen

to. Simply visit <https://stories.audible.com/discovery>



The World Book Day website not only has a wide range of activities for young people of all ages, but also has many suggestions of what to read as well as extracts from a range of books.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/2020/03/book-ideas-hub-brilliant-stay-at-home-ideas-free-resources/>

For our younger students, there is guidance available from the National Literacy Trust:

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/>

They also recommend using the BBC Sounds app, where there are numerous podcasts for young people to listen to.

In the weeks ahead, we will be asking for recommendations from teachers and students to share with each other.



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

Thank You for
your
donations.

Total raised
was
£440

Free School Meals

For those entitled to Free School Meals, Bristol Free School has signed up to the Department For Education's National Free School Meals voucher scheme, which is being run by Edenred.

From Monday 20 April, families will receive an email directly from Edenred every other week containing a 16-digit eCode, which can be redeemed on their website www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk for supermarket vouchers. See https://www.edenred.co.uk/Documents/DfE/DfE_FreeSchoolMeals_ParentCarerFAQs.pdf for further details.

We hope that this new national scheme will go some way to ensuring our students continue to receive a healthy meal at this challenging time.

There are a number of online resources available to support families in preparing healthy and nutritious food, including on the <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/the-eatwell-guide/> website.



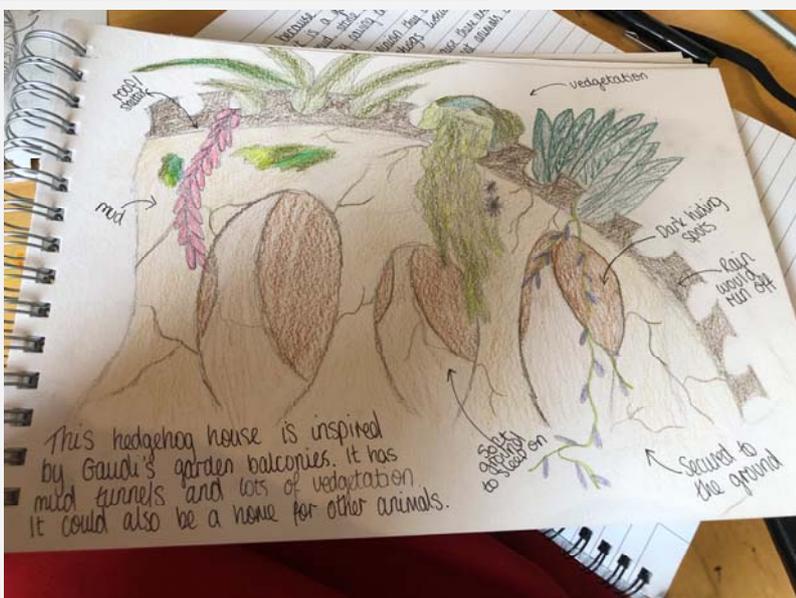
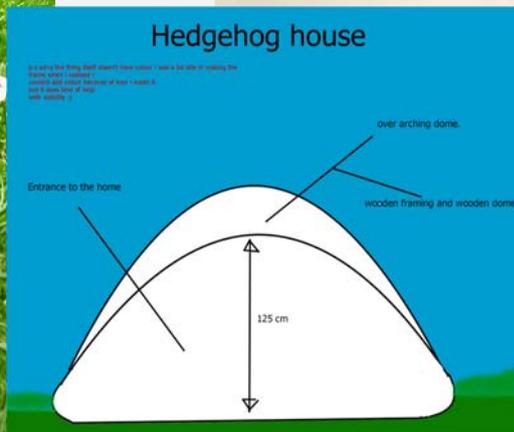
Things Students Can Do to Support Themselves during the next few weeks and beyond:

- Stick to timings of the school day as much as you can. You have been in school for years and you are used to getting up at a certain time as well as having break and lunch at a certain times. Stick to those timings and try to do five x 45 minute learning or creative activities a day.
- Stick to your school timetable. For example: do History work on the day you would normally have History lessons.
- Email your Teacher, Tutor, Year Leader if you have any questions about work or how things are going. Always use your school email.
- Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media. Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting and overwhelming.
- Take care of your body. Take deep breaths, stretch or meditate. Try to eat healthy well-balanced meals, exercise regularly and get plenty of sleep.
- Make time to wind down. Try to do some activities that you enjoy. Connect with others, talk with people you trust about any concerns and how you are feeling.
- When you cannot control what's happening challenge yourself to control the way you respond to what's happening. That's where your power is.



Wildlife House Project

We are delighted and very impressed with the quality of wildlife houses designed and produced by Year 8 and Year 9 students for their DT Home Learning (rotation 1):



EASTER CHALLENGE from Miss Dawson

Have fun with this! You could use one loo roll and transform it into an animal or create a series with patterns or base it on your favourite artist or artwork!



Loo Roll Art Challenge!

ART NOTICE

Start saving any rubbish/ recyclable materials that you could make an art piece out of for Term 5's art project. Easter packaging could be a good start!



BFS ART

ART COMPETITION



In association with the (Royal West of England Academy)

We invite NW24 schools to take part in an art competition on the theme "MY TRUE NATURE" Responses could be linked to favourite places in the natural world, living things, environmental issues, or something that inspires you in nature

Deadline: 1 MAY

Entries can be:

- A drawing
- A print
- A painting
- A sculpture
- A collage
- A photograph



Hebe Simmons yr 10

I am so impressed with the array of fantastic Art I am receiving! Keep up the good work! Miss Dawson



Vigilia Oliver Walsh yr 10



Teya Cankurt yr 10



Carl Richards yr 8



Anna Mahon yr 9



Tom Donoghue yr 8

Safeguarding and Wellbeing during the Easter holidays

The Easter holidays is certainly going to be a quieter time than usual for our students and their families. We are also aware that it is a time when some of our young people may be more anxious than usual and wanted to remind our school community of sources of support that are available to them.

Bristol City Council - First response, should you have a need to report an urgent safeguarding issue you can call 0117 903 6444.

- **Families in Focus:** information and support about coronavirus for children and young people <https://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/documents/Fif%20Sources%20of%20support%20Covid%201.pdf>
- **Young Minds:** <https://youngminds.org.uk/> provides some specific information related to well-being during the covid-19 crisis. <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/get-urgent-help/youngminds-crisis-messenger/> may be of particular use.
- **The Mix:** <https://www.themix.org.uk/> Provides advice for those with anxiety. It also suggests a range of activities to keep children occupied over the weeks ahead.
- **Kooth:** <https://www.kooth.com/> Offers online counselling support.
- **Childline:** <https://www.childline.org.uk/> Full of superb resources to support young people and has a large amount of advice regarding how to keep safe online and report abuse. The childline phone number is 0800 1111
- **Women's Refuge:** <https://www.refuge.org.uk/> website for women who are experiencing domestic abuse. Phone number: 0808 2000 247
- **Mens Advice Line:** <https://mensadviceline.org.uk/> website for me who are experiencing domestic abuse. Phone number 0808 8010327

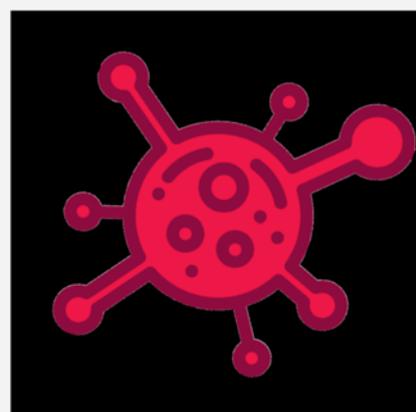


COVID-19 Symptom Tracker

Please use this app to contribute to vital research on COVID-19.

It has been developed by a health science company with doctors to study the symptoms of the virus and track how it spreads.

Take 1-minute to self-report daily, even if you are well. For further information go to <https://covid.joinzoe.com/>



Student Safe and Acceptable Use of ICT Agreement

Approved by RET Board

Approved on May 2018

SLT contact Headteacher

Revision due Every 2 years



These behaviours will keep everyone safe and help us to be fair to others.

1. I will only use the school's computers for schoolwork, homework and as directed.
2. I will be responsible for my behaviour when using the Internet. This includes resources I access and the language I use.
3. I will ask for permission when bringing files into school (on removable media or online) or ask permission to upload appropriate material to my workspace.
4. I will only edit or delete my own files and not view, or change, other people's files without their permission. I respect other people's privacy.
5. I will keep my logins, IDs and passwords secret and I will only log on to the school network/ learning platform with my own user name and password.
6. I will respect the privacy and ownership of others' work on-line at all times.
7. I will use the internet responsibly and will only visit web sites approved by the school. I am also aware that during lessons I should visit websites that are appropriate for my studies.
8. I will not attempt to bypass the internet filtering system.
9. I will not use apps that interfere with learning or could lead into accusations of cheating.
10. I will only e-mail people I know, or those approved by my teachers and I will only use my school email address.
11. The messages I send, or information I upload, will always be polite and sensible.
12. Images of pupils and/ or staff will only be taken, stored and used for school purposes in line with school policy and not be distributed outside the school network without the permission.
13. Only when I have been given permission will I open attachments or download a file.
14. Unless a trusted adult has given permission, I will not give my home address, phone number, send photographs or video, or give any other personal information that could be used to identify me, my family or my friends.
15. I will not give out any personal information such as name, phone number or address. I will not arrange to meet someone unless this is part of a school project approved by my teacher.
16. I will never arrange to meet someone I have only ever previously met on the internet or by email or in a chat room, unless I take a trusted adult with me.
17. If I see anything I am unhappy with or I receive a message I do not like, I will not respond to it, but I will save it and talk to a teacher/trusted adult.
18. I am aware that some websites and social networks have age restrictions and I should respect this.
19. I am aware that, at all times, my online activity should not upset or hurt other people and that I should not put myself at risk.

I have read and understand these choices of behaviour are designed to keep me safe. I agree to them and that if they are not followed, school sanctions may be applied and my parent/carer may be contacted.

Name:	
Signature:	
Date:	