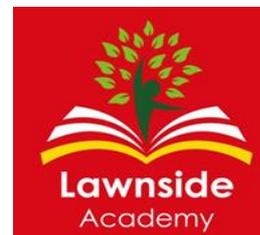


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3rd April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Lawnside Academy has been closed now for 2 weeks, apart from for children of critical workers and vulnerable children, and I wanted to write to you all at this time to share some important information and advice from both us and Central Bedfordshire Council.

We have set up a 'Home Learning Activities' page on the school website and each Monday during term-time, teachers will upload, and Parent Mail, a year group guide for the week. Suggestions on these include spelling, reading, writing, maths, science, Purple Mash, PE, art, music, topic and French activities.

If there are any questions, or you would like to share some of your work, you can email your teacher using [2Email](#) within [Purple Mash](#). I would also like to invite you to e-mail me any photos and/or any pictures of your home learning which you would be happy for me to share on any forthcoming newsletters. For example; do you have any photos of your children doing PE with Joe Wicks?, can you send us any examples of your children's writing?, do you have any pictures of your children's artwork and/or of any science experiments carried out?. Please e-mail anything to me at cjohnson@bestacademies.org.uk as I would love to see what you are up to and share your ideas with others - who knows, you may inspire someone else to try something different. I will then share these with everyone via newsletters (Parent Mail) and the 'Latest News' page on the school website. I have included two pictures at the end of this newsletter to get us started.

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/	Thinkyouknow (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
https://www.internetmatters.org/	Internet matters (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
https://parentinfo.org/	Parent info (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/default.aspx	LGfL (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
https://www.net-aware.org.uk/	Net-aware (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

Below are two sources of support at this time from Central Bedfordshire Council:

How to apply for free school meals

If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8306. When you call to apply for free school meals, please have the following information ready:

- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner
- dates of birth for your children
- if you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number

Qualifying benefits to receive free school meals

The qualifying benefits to receive free school meals for children are:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and your annual gross income does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (during the initial roll-out of this benefit)

As soon as we have confirmation that you qualify, your child's free school meals can start from the date you apply.

After Easter, all parents qualifying for free school meals will receive a £15 voucher (per child, per week), TERM TIME ONLY, redeemable at a range of supermarkets. This will continue for the duration of the partial school closure.

Parents seeking advice

Where schools are finding that parents are coming to them seeking advice as they are struggling there is a webpage, 'Support for individuals in hardship', on Central Bedfordshire Council's website which includes an online form and a telephone number 0300 300 8900 – we would advise that, where possible, parents try the online form first.

Take care, stay safe and please do let us know if we can be of any help to you.

Yours sincerely and I look forward to seeing what you are up to at home.



Cheryl Johnson
Head Teacher

