

3 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, and most importantly, I hope that you and your families are all keeping well. We are at the end of week 2 of school closure and a two-week period of isolation; and what would formally have been the end of the Spring Term. An end of term like no other.

I have just completed today's Joe Wicks 'Spiderman' workout with Mr Sodey and Mr Craig – although have to confess to not always finding it easy to motivate the students with us in school to do it! I am hoping that the after effects will not be as enduring as they were from Monday; I did the workout with Mr Coe and Mr Mansfield that day and safe to say the workout after effects lasted into Wednesday.

Those of you following us on Facebook will have seen that Miss Whitaker has put up Stour Valley's very own exercise challenge. Every week there will be a new exercise video which you can do at home. Get as many of the people in your house involved as you can and post your scores on the school Facebook page to share your success. The PE department are also hoping that you can share your Strava feeds with us to show us what you've been up to if you're out running and biking. Feel free to email us about these or tweet us @SVPE.

You should have received an email yesterday with details of work for your children to complete at home for the next two weeks. We have had some positive feedback from parents about the work being set and I know that our IT support email has also seen a bit of action in order to sort out some technical issues. I intend to put out a survey next week to gather feedback about how this is going. Please do look out for this and respond, as this will help us with our planning.

Don't forget that all staff are contactable by their email, initialsurname@stourvalley.org and we remind you also of the safeguarding email safe@stourvalley.org and of IT support, itsupport@stourvalley.org. Mr J Nunn, Miss C Bank and Mr R Lee are our designated safeguarding officers and they have access to the safeguarding mailbox. Your children's Year Leaders and Tutors are also accessing their emails regularly. There is a skeleton staff in school each day to look after some of our more vulnerable children and the children of key workers; that means that there is someone answering the phones during school hours during the week. Please do bear in mind when contacting staff by email, that staff may be ill, focusing on looking after their own relatives and/or simply not have access to internet at any given time. Be reasonable in your expectation of response times, as we will not necessarily be able to respond as quickly as we usually would.

I will finish with some wonderfully positive news about how Stour Valley are helping to support our NHS. The Design and Technology department is working in collaboration with BT at Adastral Park in a coordinated approach to manufacturing and distribution of PPE supplies to the NHS. At home, Mr Stephens is using the school 3D printer to manufacture NHS approved brackets for face shields, which are to be assembled at Adastral Park and sent to hospitals. The first few produced are looking great and I will post some pictures on our Facebook page. Let us know if you too could help.



The school has also donated 200 of our Science laboratory and Design Technology workshop goggles to Newmarket Hospital and West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust. They were very gratefully received, with two nurses shedding tears as they explained that they have all been sharing just four pairs.

Keep well

Kind regards

Rachel Kelly, Headteacher

