

ACORN TRUST NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2020



Welcome

I would like to express my thanks to our whole Trust community for the way in which everyone has come together over the last few weeks. In challenging times, it has been heartwarming to see our collective sense of faith, family and friendship.

Of course, these are times that none of us could have imagined or predicted would have such a profound impact on our everyday lives, and so very quickly.

It makes me immensely proud, however, to see the spirit of resilience, kindness and compassion that has grown amongst us over recent days. To every pupil, parent, carer, member of staff, governor and other volunteers from across our community, thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do for each other over the coming weeks.

As we adapt to the changes that are taking place, I wanted to get in touch to assure you that while we are now unfortunately unable to open our doors to all of our wonderful children (with the exception of those that are in the most need), we are still here doing all that we can to provide continuing education, reassurance and support for each and every one of our pupils.

Now, more than ever, we also want to support you as parents and carers to deliver learning at home as well as providing a sense of routine, normality and safety for your children.

Our staff have been working around the clock to put measures in place to continue to deliver learning activities for our classes. They will be maintaining regular contact with you, providing work for your children to complete as well as additional ideas for keeping their minds busy.

We are also using this time to plan for the future, when we look forward to welcoming the children back to school. This includes developing exciting new curriculum ideas and a host of activities for your children to enjoy.

I know that these are worrying and uncertain times, but we are here to support you in whatever way we can, and value your ongoing support too.

Wishing all the very best for you and your families.

Warm regards,

Julie-Ann Hewitt
CEO, Acorn Trust

Doing our bit to combat Coronavirus



1.

Washing our hands

As you will have seen and heard, one of the best ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is by washing our hands regularly and thoroughly throughout the day. In particular, this should be done when entering or leaving the house and after any coughs or sneezes, which should always be into a tissue.

Using soap and water, everyone should be washing their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds. There are various techniques that we have taught the children in school that we would like them to continue at home.

2.

Shopping responsibly

We have all seen the headlines over the last few weeks about a surge in panic buying. It is our collective responsibility as a society to only buy what we need in order to ensure there are sufficient supplies for everyone.

3.

Staying at home

Where possible, unless it is absolutely essential, we have all been asked to stay at home. This includes keeping our distance from friends and members of our extended family who do not live within our own households. Of course, this is something that we will all struggle with as being around our loved ones is part of who we are, but the more we do now, the more lives that will be saved.

When we do have to go out to buy food or for a walk in the fresh air, we have been asked to practice 'social distancing' keeping two metres apart from anyone that we see in order to reduce the spread of the disease.

4.

Self isolation

In the case of individuals with symptoms of a cough or a high temperature they are being asked, alongside members of their household to stay at home in self isolation for 14 days.

Every member of the household must stay inside and should not go out the house, even for essentials. There are various support networks in place for people in this position, if extended family members or friends are unable to help out with delivering food supplies for example.

Supporting one another across our community

During this time of social distancing we know how important it is to support one another, even if it is from afar.

That is why, following school closures, we are urging our pupils to become active members of the community in whatever ways they can.

One of the most important ways to contribute to the community is by helping to keep up morale, this can be done in many creative ways such as drawing a picture and posting it in your window or sending a letter to a relative who lives further away. Reminding people that you care and that you are thinking of them can have a huge impact right now.

Food stocks can also be low at times for many families, so remember that any extra food you may not need can always be gifted. This could include donating some spare cans or cupboard essentials to the food bank. As an alternative you and your family could create a small care package to send to a family member with some items in that you know they like.

Although we cannot meet up face to face at the moment, we can all keep in touch with our friends and family using technology. A fantastic way to do this is through Skype, Zoom and FaceTime, sharing a cup of tea and a fun family quiz or simply having a good catch up. This kind of interaction is particularly important for the elderly and people who live on their own, so a cheery call from your children could really brighten up someone's day.

Activities to try at home

As you will be aware, our teachers have been working hard to set relevant work for our pupils to complete at home.

It is incredibly important that every pupil continues with their learning during these exceptional times and we will do all that we can to support you.

Alongside the work that has been set, we thought it would be useful to share a range of information about other activities that you may like to try with your children at home.

These include **FREE Online Education Resources**, but also suggestions for **Keeping Fit and Active** and **Crafts and Creative Activities**.

FREE Online Education Resources

Audible – All ages

https://stories.audible.com/start_listen

There are a great range of FREE audible stories for children available online - no joining fees and lots of genres to choose from.

BBC Bitesize - All ages

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

Lots of resources and activities to support homework, revision and learning. Find free videos, step-by-step guides, activities and quizzes by level and subject.

Blockly – Key Stage 2+

www.blockly.games

Designed for children who have not had prior experience with computer programming.

Blue Peter Badges – All ages

www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges

A series of challenges for children to complete.

Boddle - Primary age

www.boddlelearning.com

Offers interactive maths games for children in primary and early secondary school. It's for Grades 1 - 6 (US) which is Reception to Year 7 for UK schools.

British Council – All ages

www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find

Resources for English language learning.

CBeebies Radio – Pre-school and Key Stage 1

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio

Listening activities for younger children

FREE Online Education Resources

Classroom Secrets Kids - Primary age

<https://kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk>

Offering free access throughout April, this covers subjects such as maths, reading, grammar and spelling.

Crash Course Kids - Primary age

www.youtube.com/user/crashcoursekids

YouTube videos on many subjects.

Crest Awards - Age 5 - 19

www.crestawards.org

Science awards you can complete from home.

David Walliams - Primary age

www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/

Every day at 11am you can listen to one of David Walliam's World's Worst Children stories.

DK Find Out - Mainly Key Stage 2 and 3

www.dkfindout.com/uk

Activities and quizzes.

Geography Games - Key Stage 2 and 3

www.world-geography-games.com/world.html

Geography games.

Khan Academy - Age 4 to 18

www.khanacademy.org

Especially good for maths and computing for all ages but other subjects at secondary level too. Note this uses the US grade system but it's mostly common material.

Maths with Carol Vorderman - Primary age

www.themathsfactor.com

Includes fun maths activities, challenges and trophies.

National Geographic Kids - Primary age

www.natgeokids.com/uk

Activities and quizzes for younger children.

National Literacy Trust - All ages

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

Ideas and guidance for simple activities that will engage your children at home, while also benefiting their reading, writing and language development.

Oxford Owl for Home - Primary age

www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home

Lots of free resources.

Science with Maddie Moate

www.youtube.com/user/maddiemoate/videos

Weekdays at 11am Maddie and Greg will chat about science and nature.

Topmarks - Primary age

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk>

Online resources to help with learning times tables, as well as lots of maths games.

Toy Theatre - Primary age

www.toytheater.com

Educational online games.

Twinkl - All ages

www.twinkl.co.uk

This is more for printouts, and usually at a fee, but they are offering a month of free access to parents due to school closures.

World Book Kitaboo - All ages

<https://worldbook.kitaboo.com/reader/worldbook/index.html#!>

You can access over 3,000 ebooks and audiobooks for free, this is a great way to keep up with literacy and reading.



Keeping Fit and Active

Cosmic Kids Yoga – Mainly primary age

www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga/videos

Cosmic Kids Yoga is a YouTube channel with videos for children to follow to teach different yoga techniques as well as mindfulness.

Joe Wicks free online PE sessions – Primary and secondary age

www.thebodycoach.com/blog/pe-with-joe-1254.html

Free 30 minute workouts hosted at 9am every weekday.

Learn a Dance Routine – Primary and Key Stage 3

www.thisgirlcan.co.uk/activities/disney-workouts

This Girl Can has partnered with Disney to make videos of dance tutorials to well-known Disney songs that families can learn together.

NHS Disney Inspired Games – Primary age

www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities/indoor-activities

The NHS have a list of indoor activities for children, all inspired by famous Disney and Pixar films. These include Frozen, Toy Story 4 and Moana.

NHS Accessible at Home Games – Primary and secondary age

www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities/accessible-activities

The NHS also have a list of accessible games for in the house, using household items.

Crafts and Creative Activities

50 Easy Indoor Crafts and Games – Primary age

www.itsalwaysautumn.com/best-indoor-kid-crafts-activities.html

A list of 50 different simple indoor crafts and some games to create and play with.

Card Games for the Family – Primary and secondary age

www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/kids-games/indoor-play/snap-12-classic-card-games-to-teach-the-kids/news-story/1d153893aee53908749c1377c588928c

A list of 12 classic card games that are easy to teach the children and start playing.

Create Your Own Board Game – Primary and secondary age

www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/create-your-own-board-game

A step by step guide to creating your own board game with crafts you most likely have in the house.

The Imagination Tree – Pre-school and primary school age

www.theimaginationtree.com

Creative arts and crafts activities for the very youngest.

Indoor Creative Activities – Primary and secondary age

www.verywellfamily.com/ideas-for-indoor-fun-for-kids-3542635

This website provides a list of fun activities, which were made for a rainy day.

Origami for Kids – Primary and secondary age

www.easypeasyandfun.com/easy-origami-for-kids

Origami is a great way to keep children entertained for hours, with so many variations to try you can start off at a beginner level with some easy creations and build up levels as the day goes by.

Red Ted Art – Pre-school and primary school age

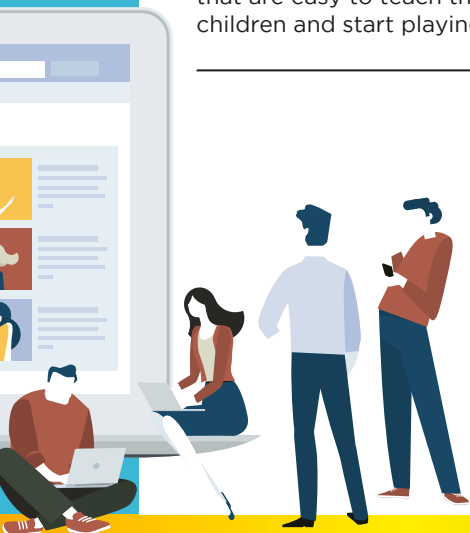
www.redtedart.com

Easy arts and crafts for little ones.

Screen-Free Activities – Primary and Key Stage 3 age

www.kidsactivitiesblog.com/124392/25-screen-free-activities-for-kids

A list compiled of different activities your child can do that takes them away from their screens.





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