

 **Ripponden Junior and Infant School**

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 ***Deputy Headteacher: Miss Lucy Taylor***

***“Challenge and enjoyment leading to excellence for all”***

**Headteacher: Mrs L Bamforth**

3rd April 2020

Dear parents/carers,

 So, we are at the Easter holidays! This has been the most bizarre, surreal few weeks of my career and I am sure you are all feeling similar thoughts at home.

Firstly, may I say just how grateful we are of our school family at this time. Your support has been tremendous and when Mrs Kenny and I have been speaking to you in the last couple of weeks, your strength, positivity and true northern grit has impressed us.

I just want to reiterate what we said on the telephone though; there is no expectation from us to how much or how little you do with your children. We understand (and empathise!!) that working from home while having your children at home is really difficult and the last thing I want to do is put any additional or undue pressure on anyone.

It is unrealistic to think that ‘home schooling’ can in any way replicate what we do in school – it can’t. Neither would it if we sent lesson plans out. What we have done in the past two weeks is send out ideas for activities and suggestions to do – but again, we are very aware that children’s circumstances are different and therefore their experience during this time will be different too. I will write out before school is due to come back after Easter and explain the provision we will be offering. Again, it must be remembered that this provision will look very different to the ‘usual’ whole-day timetable of structured lessons. You will also need to do what you can in your family and around existing commitments.

This is now the Easter holidays. Teachers will not be contacting you with work for the holidays – this is a time for families and memory making. While you will be unable to go on holiday, I have included some attachments of activities you could do with your children. This is a mix of things, some that would need printing but also ideas that don’t need printing, including games, activities and baking (if you can get flour!).

A couple of additional things, which are nice would be - <https://rhythmsofplay.com/how-to-make-an-easter-tree/> - making a really nice Easter tree. <https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/easter> has lots of activities (aimed more at little ones), but some nice activities.

We have also signed up for a free trial of [www.brainpop.com](http://www.brainpop.com) This is an American site – so be aware that there are language differences, Americanisms etc but there are some nice activities, reading activities and quizzes.

The login details are –

[www.brainpop.com](http://www.brainpop.com)

Login: pupilABC

Password: R1pponden

In addition to these, I have included in the attachments a document called 60+ virtual tours and trips. This is hyperlinked with 360-degree virtual tours of museums, aquariums, stadiums, palaces and much more. You can literally travel the world while sitting on your sofa! Some really interesting places with information embedded – fascinating!

If you haven’t joined the School Facebook page yet – please do so. Already, it has been full of super ideas to do at home and we are seeing some excellent, creative activities that our children have been getting up to – they are super and keep them coming! (on Facebook search for Ripponden J&I School and our picture is a rainbow).

Again – THERE IS NO EXPECTATION to do anything during the holidays – they are just that, holidays. However, we thought you might appreciate some ideas as we are in a lockdown scenario.

During these weeks, I understand that things may get a little strained. I will be working from home during the holidays and will have the school mobile on – 07399 326030 and have access to the emails – office@ripponden.calderdale.sch.uk please feel free to get in touch should you need anything.

Of course, I cannot solve everything. If you need specialist help, there are organisations that can help:

- Samaritans – 116 123 (for help with urgent mental health issues)

- Calderdale MAST – 01422 393336 (for safeguarding concerns about a child)

- NSPCC – 0808 800 5000 (for concerns about a child)

- Elland Foodbank – 01422 364620 (for help with food)

- Women’s Centre – 01422 386500 (women’s refuge)

I hope you have a lovely couple of weeks with your family and unless you need us, we will be in touch when we are due back – week commencing 20th April.

With very best wishes,

Lorraine Bamforth

Headteacher