

# CALSHOT PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## NEWSLETTER

[www.calshot.bham.sch.uk](http://www.calshot.bham.sch.uk)

**At Calshot Primary School we are always AIMING HIGH!**

### School Update

As we reach the end of another lockdown week I wanted to write to you and update you on what's going on in school and the role we all have to play in helping our children. Last night I heard Boris announce that schools will not open until March 8<sup>th</sup> at the earliest, and my heart sank. I have frequent conversations with parents on how difficult this lockdown is compared to last time, I am a father and have to face the daily struggle to manage home learning and work. I often have to resort to bringing my son into school (he stays isolated in my office away from everyone else), as his school is not able to offer all keyworker children places. I know what it is like to try and make sure I'm doing my job and at the same time **try to** assist my son with his home learning. I know how difficult this is and the anguish it causes and that's why I wanted to share my view on this. I have spoken to the teachers and they tell me that you are doing your very best. There is a huge expectation on parents but we cannot do it all and that is okay. We are in the middle of a global pandemic the most important thing is that you and the children are safe, loved and cared for. Please do not let school work put any extra pressure on you when you are trying to hold down jobs, earn a living and keep the family safe. Everyone's circumstances are different and we do appreciate that!

I speak to a lot of Head Teachers and have found that all schools are managing the situation in different ways, this is necessary as each school has its own issues to deal with such as lack of staff due to illness, isolating or shielding, staff anxiety, classrooms sizes, technology etc. Our teachers are in school every day as every year group have children in completing face to face learning for keyworker parents. They are still teaching and sending work home via remote learning for the curriculum that is required for spring. This was a conscious decision so that the gap in learning was limited, however we know that not all pupils can access it. I know many parents struggle with the amount of technology required for home learning, especially when you have more than one child to monitor and not enough Wifi, or printer ink to enable it. So we offer weekly work packs that parents can collect or have hand delivered to their home. If you need a work pack please email your class teacher, as they have spent hours creating these packs each week so they are available for you. I also want to reiterate the importance of our children's mental health and well-being. Remember children need time to step away from the laptop or device. You could, with your child, go for a walk, have a bike ride or go to the park. Physical activity and fresh air is important too.

I want to thank the parents that have been so supportive of school and have taken the time to let the teachers know this when they phone, it is very much appreciated. Every day teachers come and tell me how wonderful you have been and how it makes a difference to them when they hear the positive feedback from you. We are all working out of our comfort zones and we would all prefer school to be back to normal so the supportive feedback goes along way!

I have had a lot of parents requesting places in school, many are keyworkers and have been identified on the Government list, however many are not. We can only have keyworker pupils in school, I am surprised by the volume of parents whose employers are telling them they are entitled to a child place when they are not eligible. We are able to ask for proof and will have to as the numbers attending school are reaching our risk assessment limit. I have also noticed the amount of keyworkers who have also got partners at home and have still chosen to fill a place. In the interest of all children's health, I would request you reconsider if coming to school is necessary. I am very aware that sending children into school may seem like the easier option however the safety of the staff and other children is paramount. We have had 5 members of staff test positive for Covid-19 since Christmas which is alarmingly high.

I have some links that you may find useful to help manage the day to day stresses we all feel at some time.

Five ways to manage your wellbeing as a parent during lockdown:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrmhscw>

Eight ways to support your anxious child during the coronavirus pandemic:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z6ksy9q>

Parents' Toolkit- Wellbeing for Primary School: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zkyr47h>

## Reading Lists

As a keen reader myself, I know that reading is an essential skills which underpins all aspects of learning. After the last lockdown we noticed that reading standards had dipped and that some children hadn't had the opportunity to delve into a good book that helped them develop a love for reading and embrace their imagination. I have included a list of books the teachers put together of reading materials they would expect the children to have enjoyed by the end of their school year. Depending on your child's ability, they may be able to read the book independently or they may want to listen to you read to them.

<b>Nur/Rec</b>		
'The Lion Inside' - Rachel Bright	'Room on the Broom' - Julia Donaldson	'Daisy Eat Your Peas' - Kes Gray
<b>Year 1</b>		
'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' - Eric Carle	'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' - Michael Rosen	'Owl Babies' - Martin Wadell
<b>Year 2</b>		
'The Giraffe, the Pelly and Me' - Roald Dahl	'The Enchanted Wood' - Enid Blyton	'Goodbye Mog' - Judith Kerr
<b>Year 3</b>		
'George's Marvellous Medicine' - Roald Dahl	'Horrid Henry' (any title) - Francesca Simon	'Pirate Pandemonium' - Jeremy Strong
<b>Year 4</b>		
'The Sheep Pig' - Dick King-Smith	'Charlotte's Web' - E. B. White	'Billy and the Minpins' - Roald Dahl
<b>Year 5</b>		
'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' - C.S.Lewis	'The Secret Garden' - Frances Hodgson-Burnett	'Swallows and Amazons' - Arthur Ransome
<b>Year 6</b>		
'Skellig' - David Almond	'The Boy Who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair' - Lara Williamson	'Danny, the Champion of the World' - Roald Dahl

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March is World Book Day and although it is unlikely school will have reopened by then, there will be a plan for school to celebrate it remotely, this will be coming out in the next few weeks.

I look forward to seeing you all when we can get back to normal, it will be difficult but we will get through it. And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#). Thank you again for your continued support.

Mr. M. Wingrove

(Head Teacher)

