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**Coronavirus Update #12**  
**3.4.2020**

**To all Parents/Carers,**

First and foremost, how are you all? I hope you are well and despite difficulties, worries and hardships you may be facing, I hope you are managing to find some positives. Our thoughts are with you all as you adapt to new ways of living and working.

We are now at the end of week two of school being closed and, technically, at the start of the Easter holidays! Today was supposed to be an INSET Day for staff; how times have changed in the last month.

Although these last two weeks have been challenging, for lots of different reasons, I am ever thankful for how the entire school community has pulled together to enforce the Government's key message about staying at home. Yes...we are open, but only to a small number of children, which means we are all playing an integral role in combatting the spread of the virus.

**Easter Holidays:**

A final reminder that we are open right throughout Easter (including Bank Holidays) for those families who are eligible:

- Children whose parents are key workers (we are still following the Local Authority advice of: 'homes where one parent is NOT a key worker should not need to use childcare')
- Children with an EHCP
- Children who have a social worker
- Children who are in Foster Care

Mrs Blackshaw in the office is currently collating who needs what and when but if you haven't already then please send her an email: [admin@markaton.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@markaton.derby.sch.uk).

**Home Learning:**

Over Easter there will be no additional learning grids as the feedback from parents/carers has generally been 'there's plenty to do on them to keep us going!!' However, that does not mean we won't be providing you with other activities and cool websites to keep you busy! Miss Hurst in the office will now be sending through a bi-weekly list of fun and engaging links packed full of things to do over the next few weeks. They will be released on a Monday and a Thursday with the first one having gone out yesterday (my personal favourite is learning the guitar with Fender and spotting the Space Station at night). I am getting my son to 'tweet' as well. Not on Twitter of course, just in a little book. It keeps his writing going and he only has to write three or four lines about something he has done in the day.

Getting the home learning balance right, particularly at this early stage, is so important as we all adapt to our new ways of living. There will be some parents/carers who want more and some who are happy to dip in and out of it over time. Hopefully what we have put together is somewhere in the middle. One that has just come in is this:

<https://www.dfc.co.uk/news/2020/04/design-your-own-umbro-derby-county-shirt>

## Safeguarding Policy:

In light of everything that is happening, we have added an appendix to our current Safeguarding Policy which outlines any procedures which may need to be followed during this time of school being closed. It can be found here:

<http://fluencycontent2-schoolwebsite.netdna-ssl.com/FileCluster/MarkeatonPrimaryRedesign/MainFolder/Coronavirus-and-Safeguarding-Policy-MAR-2020.pdf>

## Free School Meals:

For those children in receipt of Free School Meals, you should have all now received an ASDA e-voucher by email to cover 23rd March to 3rd April.

That said, this week, the Government have introduced a funded scheme which enables us to send you an e-voucher that can be redeemed at a supermarket of your choice (current list includes: ASDA, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, M&S Food, Tesco and Morrisons). More details will be sent to you shortly regarding this scheme. It is important that we have your up-to-date contact details - if you change your mobile number or email address in the coming weeks, it is important you let our School Office know by emailing [admin@markeaton.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@markeaton.derby.sch.uk)

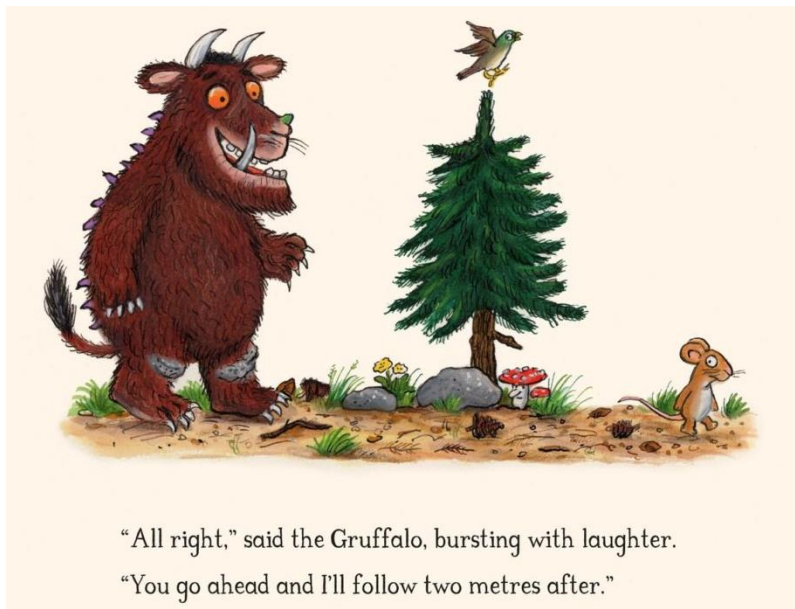
## Welfare Calls:

Starting from today, some families may receive a phonecall from Mrs Balfour, Miss Ball or myself. There's no need to panic! It is just a 'keeping in touch' phonecall and will hopefully be once a week. Feel free to share what is going well and how, or if, we can support you as a school – particularly with Home Learning. We look forward to catching up!

## Bikes in school:

Cycle Derby have very kindly, following a few pleading emails, dropped off some bikes for those children who are in school to use. We have given them a good clean and they get cleaned at the end of each day too. If your child comes to school please could you bring their cycle helmet with them – thank you.

I think that is it for now. I stumbled across this today ☺



Talk to you next week and take care,

Mr I. Johnson