

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



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HEADTEACHER
Mr A Johnson

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is the strangest start to a Summer Term that I have ever experienced in my teaching career, I will be happy not to repeat it.

Whilst reading an article the other day, the points made struck a chord with me, so I thought I would share some of it with you now.

We are living in uncertain times where no-one is sure of the future and with the current crisis threatening the well-being of ourselves and that of our loved ones; our interaction with the world is dominated by a survival instinct.

This uncertainty and lack of clarity, drives our craving for information. Unfortunately, not all the information we receive is helpful or even true. Current speculation and 'press releases' on the formal re-opening of schools is a prime example! To use the well-known phrase of Donald Trump, it's 'fake news' and this inhibits our ability to think calmly or rationally. Perhaps, and even more concerning, through our need to consume as much information as possible, we pollute our minds with exaggerated stories which distort our view of reality, constrains our ability to plan and causes further, unnecessary anxiety.

Not that anyone is claiming our local or global situation is not real. What we are all facing is very real, very dangerous and has had a devastating effect on many. As a mechanism for survival, we must reconcile that even though we cannot influence what is happening in the world as a whole, we can influence what is happening in our own immediate world. Remember, that an opportunity to spend time with your immediate family, however forced, and infinitely frustrating that may currently feel, is a blessing. Just as importantly, remember that as parents and carers you need time to ensure your own well-being. Your ability to look after your children and loved ones stems from and is sustained, by your ability to look after yourself.

We all will have faced disappointment from cancelled events; holidays, weddings - opportunities to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or simply visiting friends or relatives and it's ok to feel seriously hacked-off! It's actually normal. Perhaps the one small consolation is, it isn't just happening to you.

At Conifers - staff have experienced the same disappointments and craved information that is accurate and pertinent to their ability to continue in their 'education' of your children. Please remember that in the current circumstances, the Government has relaxed any curriculum statutory requirements, and that **any learning at home is good**. If you are stuck for ideas though or looking for alternatives, do visit our website and follow the 'Home-Learning' link. As parents and carers, I am aware that you'll recognise that Conifers, like many schools, go way beyond the 'academic' in respect of educating your children, and although all of this is currently very different, we will continue to do our very best for you and your children whilst, like yourselves, keeping us and our respective families safe.



The school remains open - and did so over the Easter holidays - for the most vulnerable children and those of key workers who simply had no other options available. Our Google Classrooms will resume frequent updates and if access to the internet is limited, 'learning packs' are available from the school. Please be advised that these can be collected - whilst adhering to social distancing stipulations - Monday to Friday, between 9 and 10 am.

No -one knows when we will return to 'normality' - but in the interim, I sincerely hope you all remain safe and stay well.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson
Headteacher

