

# Ilketshall Newsletter

April 2020

## A Big Thank you!

Firstly can I start by saying - Thank you and a huge well done to you all, together we have survived the first two weeks of this strange new world we find ourselves in!

You have all been amazing, I have loved looking at all of the children's posts on Tapestry and Seesaw and I have been really impressed not only with the commitment that the children have shown to their learning, but also the unending support that parents have given to them and the tireless work that staff have put in to ensuring that our children are still motivated and engaged with their learning throughout. Also, thank you for your patience, this is new territory for staff as well, who, like you are often trying to juggle working from home with supporting their children's learning. It has been a very steep learning curve for all of us. This is not a situation any of us have chosen and yet as a community we have pulled together to make it work. I have also been asked to pass on her thanks by Mrs Fenner, our Chair of Governors.

## Holiday Arrangements

Moving forward, today is the last day before the Easter holidays and I am sure that we are all ready for a well-earned rest. I know that staff are thinking of putting some fun things on Seesaw for the children to do over the holidays if they wish to but there is certainly no expectation that these will be completed. If you need to make contact with us over this time for any reason, please use the school email as I will continue to monitor that.

## Free School Meals

The current financial climate can be tricky for families. If you think that you may be entitled to Free School Meals please follow this link: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. If you are eligible, this will mean you will be provided with vouchers throughout this period of school closure (term time only). For families who are already in receipt of free school meals, the voucher system for these for after Easter is being finalised and we will be in touch towards the end of the Easter to let you know what will happen next.

## Key Workers

I have contacted everyone who registered with me as key workers separately to ask you to confirm any requirements for childcare provision at Edgar Sewter after the holidays, if you have not yet done so, could I please ask you to do so as soon as you know your requirements so that we can arrange appropriate staffing etc. Please remember that this provision is available only if there is no other safe alternative for your children.

## Illness

Could I ask please that if any of your family do become unwell that you let us know through the school email, not only does this mean that we won't follow up if we haven't seen the children posting on Seesaw for a while but also because we want to know that you are all safe and well.

## Moving Forward

Realistically, the current lock-down is likely to continue after Easter and we are planning with that in mind. This means that from 20th April, staff will be back at their laptops, setting work, marking and giving feedback and we look forward to seeing the children then.

Have a great Easter and stay safe.

Mrs Winter