

Wednesday, 29th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Update on School Closure

I hope that you and your families are safe and well. Since I last wrote to you, we have no further news about plans to re-open schools. We are all thinking about you and hope we will see you again soon.

Collective Worship with Rev Roland: Do Not Be Afraid

In these troubling times, we all need a little reassurance and guidance. What better way to get this support than by joining Rev Roland for a virtual collective worship session? Roland has now posted his third collective worship for the pupils of the schools of Hale and Halebank. Please click [here](#) to view it. Many thanks to Roland for continuing to support our school during the closure.

Home Learning and Staff Contact

I hope that you have been able to access the home learning tasks that class teachers have set for the week and that you have found the [class pages](#) easy to navigate. The staff are very keen to hear from you and your child; I know some of you have been emailing pictures of the work you have been completing to class teachers. This is a great idea and a lovely opportunity for our staff to provide some well-deserved feedback to your child. The staff can be contacted at the following email addresses, so please do get in touch:



Mrs Griffin-Jones: Class1@halebank.halton.sch.uk
Mrs Draper: Class2@halebank.halton.sch.uk
Mrs Eley: Class3@halebank.halton.sch.uk
Mrs Bennett: Class4@halebank.halton.sch.uk

Please remember that there is no set amount of time that your child should be working at home and you may well have your own activities on the go. Don't forget that the [Oak National Academy](#) and [BBC Bitesize](#) websites can be used to support home learning; both publish daily lessons and resources to support your child.

I would like to remind you that the current situation is unprecedented (we are hearing that word a lot these days) and arrangements across all aspects of our lives are out of the ordinary. It's very difficult to replace a typical school day with home learning, so anything you can do with your child is a bonus!

You are not alone in the challenges you are facing. Have a read of these BBC articles if you want to know how other parents are managing: [Coronavirus: The impossibility of home-schooling a nation](#) and [Former school inspector rates own home schooling](#).

Voucher Scheme for Pupils Eligible for Free School Meals

Voucher codes for the next fortnight have now been ordered and parents with children eligible for free school meals should receive these this week via email. I log into the Edenred system regularly and am pleased to see that most of the vouchers have now been redeemed. Wherever possible, I will request that your vouchers are resent to you if they are still sitting in the system, so do check your emails regularly. One or two of you have reported 'Invalid eCode' error messages on the eCode redemption website. Edenred have contacted schools to ask parents to try redeeming their vouchers again, as the error has now been resolved.

If you have any problems with the system or if you are waiting too long for vouchers, please check Edenred's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document or contact me at head.halebank@halton.gov.uk. I tend to use the website late at night to make sure it's quiet; the busiest times are between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm, so these are best avoided.



Good News: ACTC TV and School Gate Messages

I'd like to finish with two pieces of good news. Firstly, the Andrew Curphey Theatre Company continues to support us during the 'lockdown' with ACTC TV on Thursdays at 6.00 pm. Check it out on Andrew's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/actheatreco> Secondly, have you seen the [messages and decorations](#) that have popped up around the school gates? Thanks to everyone who has contributed; you've really cheered the community up!



Please look after yourselves and your families. If you need any support or guidance at any point, do drop us an email and we will do our best to get back to you. Stay safe ☺.

Yours sincerely

Richard Harley
Mr R Harley