



Newsletter 4th May 2020

Aycliffe Village Primary School



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your children are able to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day in some way this Friday. It is such a shame that celebrations in school and our local community can't go ahead, as originally planned. As with most things at this time, it is just a case of approaching things in a different way and doing what we can! Children attending school this week will be taking part in a red, white and blue party and enjoying food they will make following recipes from the time of World War II.

If you haven't already had a phone call from class teachers, they will be in touch soon. We just want to check in with you and your children to make sure everything is ok, answer queries about home learning and to let you know you are in our thoughts.

Take care
Mrs H Sutherland
Head Teacher



Update about Home Learning

Following reflection on what we have done so far and a virtual staff meeting last week, we have made the following tweaks to home learning:

- Activities for the week will now be ready by Friday evening (for the week ahead) rather than Monday morning. This gives parents chance to look through them over the weekend, if they would like to. We hope this is helpful as we know many parents/carers are also working from home.
- Staff will check into Google Classroom three times a week to comment and provide feedback.
- We will provide daily English and Maths activities and a range of activities for other subjects (enough for one per day).

Please remember the activities are there to help you and we do not want anyone to feel pressurised by them. As a parent, I am also juggling working with home learning and I know how difficult it can be. ***Please do what you feel is right for your child/ren and your situation at home.*** It is very difficult for us to have an approach that fits the circumstances of everyone—we have had feedback from both ends of the spectrum (some people who would like more and some who feel overwhelmed by what we are currently offering). We will offer what has been described above and ask you to engage with what is helpful and appropriate to your individual circumstances.

We are still here to help...

I wanted to remind you that, although the school building is closed for most children, we are still here to help and support in any way we can. Please contact us if there is an issue with your child that is concerning you and we will do all we can to help. Our email address is aycliffevillage@durhamlearning.net and phone number is 01325 300227.



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Internet Safety

Please see the information below about an app where safety concerns have been raised.

Zello Walkie-Talkie App

The app is free and allows you to livestream audio/chat with others without lag as if you were using a walkie-talkie. The app is rated 12 years plus but concerns have been reported about primary school aged children using and recommending the app to friends.

When using the app you can chat with friends or search for other users created channels. For example if you wanted to talk to others about Lego search for it and you will be able to find a channel to do so. Chatting with adult strangers is a possibility especially if using channels created by strangers. Some of these user created channels are also not suitable for children and rated 18+.

The app does come with some parental controls and you can password protect channels, restrict your child from setting up new accounts and channels as well as sending and receiving messages. The app also features a flagging tool for reporting inappropriate content and users.

It is recommended that:

- Parents and carers take the time to research and set up any app that your child wants to use.
- We would also recommend to any parent/carer that they set up parental controls on Zello before letting their child use the app.
- Set up some ground rules for how your child uses any app and encourage your child to tell you if they have seen or heard anything that is upsetting, worrying or inappropriate.