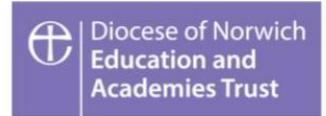




Ditchingham Church of England Primary Academy
Gillingham St Michael's Church of England Primary Academy

Head teacher: Mrs Heather Brand
Email: office@gillingham.norfolk.sch.uk Email: office@ditchingham.norfolk.sch.uk



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020

A MESSAGE FROM MRS BRAND

Today is certainly a strange start to a summer term.

Although we cannot all be together, we want to ensure that all within our family of schools and our local community know that they are important to us. We thank everyone for the support that has been shown to our staff and the support you have given to each other, we will get through these uncertain times together. From today, school staff will resume setting suggested work via our text messaging system. We are keen to offer things that are manageable within different household circumstances. Therefore we have agreed we will set only a few tasks via texts and those families who would like further activity ideas can have a look on our Facebook feed via our website for additional suggestions.

The curriculum has been suspended by the DFE, whilst we are keen to offer you ideas, we appreciate that every family works in a different way; Please engage in learning in whatever way suits your family. Do reply to teachers if there is something you would like advice or support with.

We will continue to communicate with you as we receive news or updates from the government.

For now we extend our gratitude to the many critical workers who are selflessly supporting us all and thank each of you for following the current guidance to 'stay home, save lives, protect the NHS'.

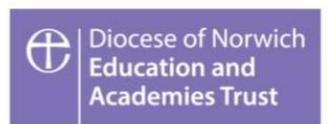




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A MESSAGE FROM OUR GILLINGHAM VICAR

I would like to wish everyone a very happy Easter season and to let you all know that I continue to pray for the schools, staff, families and children amid all these extraordinary circumstances.

I do hope you are well and I pray every blessing upon you.
Revd David Smith.

STAFFING UPDATE

This term we are delighted to welcome back Mrs Brown, Mrs Evans and Miss Byles from maternity leave.

We bid a sad farewell to Miss Roos and Mrs Oakins, we thank them very much for everything they have done over the last nine months.



HOME LEARNING

We have signed up for free to dyslexia gold whilst the school is closed. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, we are offering spelling tutor and times table tutor free to schools so pupils can work at home. Dyslexiagold.co.uk.

If anyone would like their child to access it then they need to message via My Ed.

We hope you have all received log in details for your child to access any music home learning by the teacher - if you haven't received the details please let us know.

We love seeing your photos of your children learning at home. Please continue to send them to our Facebook page so we can share the amazing and creative things you are all doing with your families. Thank you



CATERING NEWS

Aspens will be taking over the catering at both Ditchingham and Gillingham Primary. They specialise in providing catering to schools and colleges across the country and are passionate about serving fresh, high quality and locally sourced food that is cooked in our kitchens. They support Free School meals and Universal Free school meals (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to receive a UFSM).

They can provide food for children who have an intolerance, an allergy, or require an alternative choice due to religious beliefs.

The school website will be updated with a new menu however if you wish you can download the free Aspens Services Menu app from either the App Store or Google Play, you will be asked for a pin which is 53754311 (Ditchingham) and 24028426 (Gillingham)

**Please remember that if you feel you may be entitled to Free School Meals for your family then you need to apply via the Gov.uk website.

MYEd APP



It has come to our attention that there are still parents that have not yet downloaded the MyEd app from the app store. This is now our main avenue for communication with families so we ask that you please download the app to ensure we are able to contact you and you are us. Feel free to send an email to the office if you need any support with this. Many thanks