



St Teresa's Catholic Primary School  
Elsenham Crescent, Basildon, SS14 1UE



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well in the current situation. Currently we do not have a date for when school will reopen so we will have to continue as we are for now.

Work is being set online via the school website each week for your child by their class teachers but the government have now launched an online academy to support home learning:

**Oak National Academy** - <https://www.thenational.academy/>

The Oak National Academy has been created by 40 teachers from some of the leading schools across England, backed by government grant funding for every year group from Reception through to Year 10. The Academy will support teachers by providing up to 180 hours of lessons a week. It has free online daily lessons and resources during this challenging time. The sequenced lessons can be used in conjunction with the lessons planned by class teachers.

complement

Also from 20<sup>th</sup> April the BBC have also launched **BBC Bitesize Daily**. This is a new service which will deliver a tailored day of learning across BBC iPlayer, Red Button, BBC Bitesize website and app, BBC Four and BBC Sounds, with curriculum relevant offers across the UK. Together, this comprehensive package is aimed at minimising disruption to children's education and providing rhythm and routine in these challenging times.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

### September Reception Intake

If your child has been offered a place in Reception for September 2020 we will be in touch over the coming weeks with dates for a parent meeting and transition sessions, hopefully these will take place in June.

### Free School Meal Vouchers

If you are in receipt of free school meal vouchers you will have received vouchers lasting until 8th May. We will organise the next set of vouchers to be with you before 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Every child in Reception, Y1 and Y2 in the UK, no matter what the family income, are currently entitled to receive a free school meal daily under the Universal School Meals provision. However, some children may continue to be entitled to Free School Meals when the Universal provision stops at the end of Year 2. This means when your child begins Year 3 they may still get a free school meal depending on your current situation. It also means that in the current situation when school is shut you could be entitled to lunch vouchers.

If you have never applied for free school meals but think you may be entitled to free school meals following the criteria below, then apply via the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit



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- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

#### Education Psychology Service Parent Helpline

Essex County Council have asked me to share this information:

**Do you have concerns about your child's education or development that you would like to talk through with an Educational Psychologist (EP)?**

**Call our Parent Helpline 01245 433293 Mondays and Wednesday 1pm – 5pm (term time)**

#### **What is the Parent helpline?**

The helpline is for carers and parents of children and young people up to the age of 19 with concerns about their children's education or development.

#### **What will happen during a call?**

You will talk to a qualified Educational Psychologist who will listen to your concerns and work with you to find a positive way forward.

#### **What will happen after a call?**

It will be a discrete piece of work with no follow up from the EP.

The helpline is confidential and personal details will not be recorded and nor will information be passed onto other sources.

A reminder of our school website address: [www.st-teresasrc.essex.sch.uk](http://www.st-teresasrc.essex.sch.uk)

Stay home, take care and enjoy the week with your families,

Mrs Cashell