

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020, weekly newsletters were replaced with ongoing ClassDojo messages sent directly to parents. Many communications were sent to parents from teachers, but whole school messages have been copied here for information:

23/3

<https://youtu.be/K6r99N3kXME>

This is a link for PE with Joe - it is a great idea for a bit of exercise for those at home.

23/3

Dear Parents and Carers,

In light of this evening's announcement from Boris Johnson I am asking you to please listen to the advice and stay at home, in order to keep all children and staff safe.

The latest advice for schools from the Local Authority is that all children must stay away from school except where 2 parents are critical workers and there is absolutely no other childcare option available. The previously categorised 'vulnerable' children should now remain at home, and we will arrange regular welfare checks.

If it is essential for your child's safety that they need to be in school, then we will do our best to accommodate your needs, but please be aware that this may mean amalgamating with other local schools and as such, this may not be at Rolph. If you feel that this applies to you, please come to school for 8.45am tomorrow morning at which time we can discuss provision needs further.

Finally, regardless of your childcare needs, please look after yourselves and each other, and please follow all government advice. I sincerely hope to see you all very soon when all of this is over.

With very best wishes to you all,

Mr Ashley.

24/3

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am pleased to be able to confirm that I have now been able to set up an online learning tool, which I was looking to bring into school to help with the teaching and learning of maths, even before the current situation evolved.

It is called MyMaths and I hope that this will be used in the future both to aid teaching in class, and as a regular homework facility.

It consists of a large number of maths lessons and tasks, as well as numerous mathematical games. It is a provision I have used in previous schools and it has always been well received, and well-used, by children, parents and teachers.

Under normal circumstances, your child will have been given a letter which introduces MyMaths to you, which includes the school sign-in (Username: rolph, password: compass25) and each individual child's personal logins. However, this is now not possible. Therefore, I have copied the letter below, and have then asked your child's teacher to send you a Dojo message which will include your child's personal login.

Once you have received the login details, I would encourage you and your child to investigate the program and have a go at some of the lessons, tasks and play the games. In time, teachers may well set specific tasks for them to complete.

If you have any queries, please use the help section on MyMaths, or Dojo your child's teacher.

I hope you find this a useful resource to help with any home learning that you may be completing at this unusual time.

Best wishes,
Mr Ashley

Mymaths guidance for parents:

Your child has been registered on the MyMaths website. This should help them to structure their maths work and enable you to see how they are progressing. The following information will help you support your child in accessing and using MyMaths.

How to access MyMaths: Go to www.mymaths.co.uk and login at the top of the page with the school's username and password. On the next page your child should enter their personal username and password in the My Portal box. MyMaths will then remember who they are and automatically log them in to the tasks.

Login Details:

The school username is: rolph

The school password is: compass25

Your personal username is: (this will be sent via Dojo to individuals)

Your personal password is: (this will be sent via Dojo to individuals)

If your child has been set a task by their teacher it will appear in the Homework area. There is a link to the lesson if they want to revise first, and a link to the homework itself. When your child completes both pages of an Online Homework the scores will be saved to the database. Their teacher will be able to see how well they did and leave feedback.

If a green star appears next to a topic, they have good skills in that area. If an amber star appears they still have some difficulties. If a red star appears they need to go back and relearn the topic. Get them to try the lesson again or ask their teacher for extra help.

If you want to work with your child, an effective strategy is to pretend that you have forgotten how to do something and ask them to show you how. Putting your child in the position of "teacher" is good for their confidence and gets them to talk about their thinking.

If you have any questions on using MyMaths at home, visit our dedicated support site. You can access this at any time by clicking Help at the top of the screen.

Having trouble accessing MyMaths? If no links are working, it may be that you have a Pop

Up Blocker. You will need to allow MyMaths to use Pop Ups and we suggest that you add www.mymaths.co.uk to your list of trusted sites. If you are having trouble accessing content, it may be that you need to activate Flash in your browser. You can find more information on this in the technical section of our support site by clicking Help at the top of the screen after you've logged in.

25/3

Dear Parents & Carers,

Firstly, I hope you are all well and managing to cope physically and mentally with these extraordinary times.

I would like to thank you all for your help in keeping your children at home, as guided by the government. Yesterday we looked after one child, and I know alternative arrangements have now been made for that child from now on. Today we have no children in school, and as such I will be closing the building and sending all staff home to keep them safe too.

We are, of course, required to ensure that 'critical keyworker' parents have childcare available, if absolutely needed. I am sure you appreciate that we have to have a certain amount of staff in school in order to provide this care, even for just one child. However, I am also reluctant to ask staff to come in each morning, thus increasing their risk of catching and spreading the virus, if it is not necessary.

Therefore, I am giving all parents my mobile phone number. This should only be used where there is a requirement for childcare where it is not safe for children to remain at home, or where there is a specific safeguarding issue at home and you need support. My number is XXXXX XXXXXX.

Should you need to contact me, which must be done as far in advance as possible, I will then make any necessary arrangements. If this is linked to childcare, it may be that I arrange for school to be opened with minimal staffing, or for an alternative venue to be arranged. This can be discussed on a one to one basis. Any non-urgent communications can continue to be made through the admin@rolph.essex.sch.uk email address or via Dojo.

Finally, as previously communicated, we are updating the list of activities you can undertake with your children on the website (under the 'children' tab), and MyMaths usernames and passwords will be sent out very shortly, if you haven't yet received them.

May I once again wish you all the very best at these unprecedented times, and thank you for all your support and particularly for the kind messages you have been sending in on email and Dojo – these really are appreciated.

Mr Ashley

My number again: XXXXX XXXXXX

26/3

Good morning,

I just wanted to confirm that school is closed again today, so thank you again for staying at home, and I hope you are all managing to keep well.

A message will shortly be sent directly to those parents who are entitled to Free School Meals, to give you an update on the latest government provision for this.

I hope you are keeping fit and busy and finding some time to enjoy the sunshine.

Take care,

Mr Ashley