

**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:**

30/3

Good Morning everyone,

I hope you have all had a good weekend.

This is a message to confirm that school is closed again today, and to thank you all for continuing to follow the government advice to 'stay at home'.

I am hoping to be able to confirm details of the national coupon scheme later, which is due to be announced by the government today, for those eligible for Free School Meals. Please note that this relates to the means tested FSM, and not the element that entitles all KS1 children to school dinners.

I have asked teachers to begin contacting some parents today, so if you get a message, please do reply so we can check you're OK. In the meantime, if you wish to contact your child's teacher directly, please do so via Dojo.

We will continue to add further activities onto the website, for you to complete with your child as we find them, so please keep looking if you want ideas of things to do.

I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Best wishes,

Mr Ashley.

1/4

Good Afternoon,

I hope you are all safe and well.

I am delighted to be able to inform you that Rolph Primary School is now connected to MyOn. MyOn is an online library which contains thousands of digital books which our children, from Reception to Year 6, can enjoy and read online at home. The programme contains a vast range of fiction and non-fiction books that the children can choose to read, according to their age group and reading preferences.

We know that high-quality reading practice is so important for so many reasons and the opportunity for our children to access such reading material is crucial at any time, but especially at times such as these.

Your child's teacher will be contacting you in the near future to provide you with a login and password for your child.

After logging onto [Myon.co.uk](https://myon.co.uk),  
Rolph CE Primary should be entered into the 'School Name' box and then your child's username and password.

The children can then select their reading preferences and the books that they can choose from will be linked to their year group.

The PDF attached to this post contains further information about MyOn.

We are registered as a UK school however, some of the books available are American, so you may come across a few American spellings.

I hope your child enjoys reading the library of digital books now available to them. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or your child's class teacher via Class Dojo.

Take care and my best wishes to you all,

Miss Gray

1/4

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope that you are all keeping well and managing to keep busy as we continue to work our way through these very 'different' times.

This is an update on where we are at the moment and to act as a reminder that although the school is closed at present, we can be available should you need childcare, including over the Easter holidays, provided you meet the previously communicated 'Keyworker' status. If you feel that you are in need of this childcare, please call me on my mobile number, XXXXX XXXXXX, and we can discuss this further.

Teachers and Teaching Assistants have been contacting some parents to check on your children's welfare, and again a reminder that you can contact them directly using Dojo should you need to. With that in mind however, I must inform you that under the terms of their contracts with school, Miss Croucher and Mrs Rivers are no longer available during this Coronavirus situation. We are deeply grateful for all they have contributed over recent months. In the meantime, Mrs Williamson and Mrs Newman have agreed to step in as contacts for Year 1 and Year 2 respectively, so please contact them via Dojo if you have any queries.

I am in the process of formulating a whole school research topic for the next 2-3 weeks, which I hope you and your child(ren) will find enjoyable and educational. I will send a further Dojo shortly with the details.

Finally, I am also grateful to Miss Gray who has organised the availability of the MyOn

books, so please take a moment to read her post and encourage your child to have a look at the books once they have received their logins. This will link in to the Accelerated Reader program that we will be using going forward, which will hopefully further develop your child's love of, and ability in, reading.

With very best wishes,

Mr Ashley.

1/4

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please note the below details of a current scam that is in circulation.

We have been informed that some parents have received an email stating the following: 'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported'.

We can confirm that this is a scam email and is not official. We urge parents that if you receive any emails like this, please do not respond and delete it immediately.

With kind regards,

The School Office

1/4

Dear Parents and Carers,

re: Rolph Whole School Country Topic.

I hope you are finding all the resources on the website useful and are managing to keep yourselves and your child(ren) busy.

Officially the Easter holidays start at the end of this week, although school will still be available for those keyworkers who need it, as previously advised. During the next two weeks I will be encouraging some staff to take holiday, whilst others will be working from home, or in school as needed - this will continue on a rolling rota for the time being.

In the meantime, I have been thinking about how we get the children busy on a whole school topic and I would now like to launch the 'Rolph Whole School Country Topic'. Please note that there is no requirement to complete this, but I thought it was useful for those who want to get their teeth into a more medium term project.

Therefore, if the children would like to join in, they can choose a country, completely at random, and complete a research project linked to it - this could be a well known country or they could challenge themselves to research somewhere not so well known.

To get them started I have put together a list of questions that they could use to research, and hopefully this will cover a multitude of subjects, particularly history and geography. However, this list is not exhaustive, so if you can think of other areas to explore, please do so (and let me know so I can add them to the list and share with others).

If the children want to write the project up, which they can do in any way they wish (maybe a folder or an IT presentation for example), they could then bring this to school when we return (whenever this may be) and share their findings with others.

Hope you like the idea, and I look forward to seeing the outcomes.

Best wishes,

Mr Ashley.

2/4

Dear Parents / Carers,

Re: Free School Meals

We are currently in the process of organising support for those families registered for means-tested Free School Meals, and details will be sent to those parents/carers directly in the very near future.

If your child is in Year R, 1 or 2 and has been receiving Universal Free School Meals, further support is not currently available. However, if you feel that you meet the eligibility criteria for the means-tested Free School Meals, as outlined here:

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

then I would recommend that you complete the application, and then notify us that you have done so by emailing [admin@rolph.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@rolph.essex.sch.uk). We can then look into additional support for you once we have received confirmation of your eligibility.

Best wishes,

Mr Ashley.

2/4

Good afternoon,

Please find a 90-second video link, created by The Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust to share with your child(ren):

<https://youtu.be/qnnZy6QiMy8>

Mr Ashley

2/4

Dear Parents & Carers,

Earlier today I added details of an online course which was forwarded to me by Essex Education Authority.

The details of 'Bounce Forward - Resilience Sessions for Parents' can be found under the 'Home Learning Resources' tab on the school website.

I thought this may be of interest to Rolph parents and carers, and the first session (tomorrow at 10am) is free.

Mr Ashley.

3/4

Dear Parents & Carers,

So we have made it to the 'official' end of the Spring Term and under normal circumstances we would be looking forward to a two week Easter holiday, following an Easter service, Headteacher Awards Worship and so on.

But as we all know, things are far from 'normal' and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their help, patience and support this term, but particularly over the last two weeks (is that really all it has been!). This includes all parents for bearing with us whilst we sort such things as setting work for the children to do remotely, keeping in contact, setting up Free School Meals etc etc.

I would also like to personally thank you for all the lovely messages you have sent me, and the rest of the staff, and I am pleased that you are happy with the regular communications and signposting of family activities. Further activities will be sent out by class teachers from 20th April.

I would also like to thank all staff for stepping up and undertaking roles that are very different to normal expectations, and going forward, for giving up their usual holiday entitlement to ensure we are available to those families who need us at this time. That said, I am keen for staff to take some sort of a break over the next few weeks, and I would therefore ask parents and carers to bear with them if they send messages which are then not responded to in the usual timescale, whilst we undertake a rota of being in school, working from home or taking time out.

Finally, a reminder that we are still available for childcare for critical keyworkers' families. If you feel you need this service, please contact me on XXXXX XXXXXX and we can make any necessary arrangements.

It remains for me to wish you a very happy Easter break, whatever that may look like this year, and whilst I will try to keep you up to date with any major changes, I will reduce the number of messages until after the Easter holidays.

With very best wishes,

Mr Ashley