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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and that you have been able to enjoy the lovely weather of late. I hope that you have also been able to access the work packs that the teachers have prepared so that your child/ren can keep learning while schools are closed. Thank you for everything you are doing at home to maintain your child/ren's education. I understand how hard this can be at times, but it really will make all the difference.

If you have not yet accessed the work pack for your child/ren, please use the relevant link below:

Early Years

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uc02fp1w42trccz/AAcugg8DbmYE1vr0i9wWAv33a?dl=0>

Key Stage 1

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/n9kbu529d4uf4g8/AAAbua9NxMa8iZtVr9I3JgDYa?dl=0>

Lower Key Stage 2

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r3p3d1ir7c7w6rx/AAA8QVF4_29RrBKifrFcMiFna?dl=0

Upper Key Stage 2

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kb7dnk9wccqg8vu/AADPBfR49f_bQPNk7Pe6rpbWa?dl=0

For further information about accessing the resources for your child/ren, please refer to the '**Accessing and Downloading Resources from Dropbox**' distributed with this letter. Please try and do some maths and English each day as well as reading every day too. These are the most vital skills to keep practising during this period to help your child/ren ready for when schools reopen fully again. Interestingly, many publishing companies have made a range of children's books freely available to download as audiobooks during this period. I'm sure this will prove very useful if you have a limited range of books at home for your child/ren to read.

You can download the work and print off or simply use the exercise book that was given out in the pack at the beginning of the school closure period. Alternatively, if you are having difficulties accessing the work, school can print it off and arrange delivery to your home. If you require any assistance, please contact the school using the office email admin@castle-park.cumbria.sch.uk and we will arrange this for you.





The Department for Education (DfE) have produced some very useful guidance to support parents who are educating their child/ren at home. It is very helpful and certainly worth reading, and can be accessed using the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-aged-2-to-4-to-learn-at-home-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

It is also very important to be aware of our mental health as well as physical health at this time. We all need to support each other with maintaining positive mental health and therefore, you will find a very useful booklet 'Wellbeing and Mental Health during COVID-19' distributed with this letter.

Castle Park School continues to be open from 8.30am - 4.15pm every weekday, including the bank holidays, offering childcare to the children of keyworkers at our school. If you are a keyworker requiring childcare, please contact the school using the office email address (admin@castle-park.cumbria.sch.uk) and we will support you through this difficult time. As a school we feel it is of the utmost importance to support parents, who have to work each day as part of the COVID-19 response, by providing safe childcare with staff the children know.

I reiterate the national message from Government and Public Health England. **If it is possible for your child to be cared for at home, then they should be.** It is crucial that we all do everything we can to limit the spread of COVID-19 and enable keyworkers to care for those who are sick and for other key services to continue. We all have our part to play and I am sure that you will act responsibly and not ask us to care for your child/ren when this could be done at home.

Families with children in receipt of free school meals will continue to receive Morrisons vouchers on Fridays, delivered by staff volunteers. The mechanism for distribution of this financial support may change in the coming weeks but I will keep you informed of any changes to the system.

As email and the website are the most efficient way for me to keep in touch with you, please look out for prompt text messages and keep checking your emails and the website regularly for updates.

In the meantime, keep up the great work at home and keep well. The staff are very grateful for everything you are doing at home to support your child's education.

With best wishes,

Mrs H F Richardson

Headteacher

