



Update for Pupils and Parents Monday 2nd April 2020

I hope Remote Learning is going well. We would appeal that you take time to ensure that your son/daughter has logged on to Google Classroom or Fronter and is completing the tasks set by their subject teachers **OR** is working from a hard pack, collected from school. Get in touch on the info@ account if your need our help. It is crucial that pupils stay engaged to maintain momentum as they continue to build towards developing their skill sets and subject understanding.

1. Junior School

There will be many gaps in your learning next year if you fall behind now. The Senior staff (Mrs Hastings, Mr McKillop , Mr Oliver, & Mrs Wilson), can see and monitor your participation every day. You will be hearing from us by telephone or by letter after the Easter holidays if you are not engaging.

We have included **two links** which pupils may find useful to support their 'Remote Learning' journey.

Link 1 - Speak text-to-speech feature to read text aloud!

This function might be helpful for some of the pupils who are struggling with reading their work. It is an add on for the Office programmes. It is very quick to set up pupils will need to adjust the settings on their computer. Follow the link to find instructions. If you experience difficulty, email Mr Cathcart, the school's IT Technician, on scathcart150@c2ken.net and he will provide assistance.

<https://support.office.com/en-gb/article/use-the-speak-text-to-speech-feature-to-read-text-aloud-459e7704-a76d-4fe2-ab48-189d6b83333c>

Link 2 – Audible Stories – They Entertain. They Teach. The keep young minds active an engaged!

Amazon, today, has cancelled the subscriptions of books and audio stories for children and students of all ages as along as schools are closed.

For as long as schools are closed, we're open. Starting today, kids everywhere can instantly stream an incredible collection of stories, including titles across six different languages, that will help them continue dreaming, learning, and just being kids.

<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

All stories are free to stream on your desktop, laptop, phone or tablet.

Explore the collection, select a title and start listening. It's that easy!



Codes for Junior Google Classrooms:

Year 8: contact school for code

Year 9: contact school for code

Year 10: contact school for code

You are not at school over the Easter holidays – so I encourage you to do something different..... some baking/cooking, painting, gardening, DIY, a new hobby, helping deliver things for people, keeping fit..... but by all means work on if your teacher has uploaded work in advance, using the reading material provided or using the many recommended tips we have given you.

None of our key workers' children intend to be in school on Week 1 and will be letting us about Week 2. Rest assured, it will be no trouble to help out in this way if it is needed.

2. Senior School

- (i) **Years 11 & 13** You will be half-way through your Examination specifications by the end of June. Your work this year will be vital for your GCSE progression. Do not assume that you will not be assessed on this year's work. You must work on... and work hard.. according to the advice of your teachers.
- (ii) **Years 12 & 14** Some of your subjects are for Examination Boards which are continuing to assess your coursework, eg Business, Child Care, Sport.... You must therefore apply yourself fully. Some of your subjects are for CCEA and you may be thinking that – because they are not assessing any new work – you can simply stop working. In many cases, your teachers will be making assessments based on what you have done so far and they will need evidence of your work quality – particularly for those assignments which you had started and did not finish – or in the case of Drama or Technology, practical work which you were developing but had not completed. You must therefore finish all your specifications, in the way your teachers guide you, in all good faith. **ALSO** – you must realise that wherever you are planning to go next year eg Sixth Form to University or Year 12 into Sixth Form – you must have work to show for your time of Remote Learning during this crisis.
- (iii) **Monitoring** All Senior pupils therefore who are not engaging with their subjects, or engaging with some subjects and not others, will be contacted directly by a member of senior staff in the coming days. (Mrs Alexander, Mr McNeilly, Mr Oliver & Mrs Wilson)
- (iv) **Be Encouraged** Well done to the many who are engaging fully. If you know of a friend who is opting out – I encourage you to encourage them! Stay well everyone... and please encourage pupils to persevere, however frustrated they sometimes become. Let's try to share and help one another all we can.

Ruth Wilson