



SINGLETON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Wednesday 6th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you all well and for the next few days at least, able to enjoy some lovely sunshine.

Last week I had a conversation with my sister, also a teacher, about supporting families where children may have experienced a bereavement. Sadly, she is at the point of now supporting a third pupil in her class where a close family member has died. With this in mind, I am including two links to organisations, able to provide support and advice if you did find yourself in a similar position.

[Click here](#) to link to the Cruse website

[Click here](#) to link to the Child Bereavement UK website

There are also some useful picture books, which can offer a supportive way of starting conversations with children:

- **Muddles, Puddles and Sunshine: Your Activity Book to Help When Someone Has Died** by Diana Crossley and Kate Sheppard
- **The Invisible String** by Patrice Karst and Geoff Stevenson
- **The Memory Tree** by Britta Teckentru
- **The Heart and The Bottle** by Oliver Jeffers

Whilst I hope and pray that no family will be affected by this current situation, being prepared and knowing where to seek support makes difficult situations a little easier to manage.

You will I am sure, be aware of an increase of press speculation about if, when and how children will return to school. The Governors and staff will follow and adhere to National and Local Authority guidance. However, it would be useful to know how you as parents are feeling about a return to school, as well as building a picture of individual needs based on your child/ren's experiences since we closed.

[Click here](#) to access our simple questionnaire. The information is for our planning purposes only. The information you provide will ensure we are able to support families and children as fully as possible.



Family Finances and Changes in Circumstances.

We are aware that family finances may change due to current circumstances. Please read the below criteria to see if your child is eligible for Free School Meals. If you are in receipt of **one or more** of the following please fill in the online form linked below to see whether you are eligible.

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- 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 state Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

[Click here](#) to complete the online form.

If you **are not** eligible for benefits-related, free school meals, **but your child is currently in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2**, they will automatically be entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals and you need not apply.

If you **are eligible for benefits-related free school meals** in accordance with the above criteria, **and your child is also receiving Universal Infant Free School Meals**, **please continue to register**. This will enable your child's school to claim valuable 'pupil premium' funding.

Message for our Children

Hello! We hope you are enjoying the learning on line this week. This week's facts for you to read are linked to a special event from the past called VE day. This is on Friday May 8th and is the day when the Second World War ended.

- VE stands for Victory in Europe
- Winston Churchill the Prime Minister announced the end of the war, which lasted for nearly 6 years.
- The then Princess Elizabeth (now Queen Elizabeth II), and her sister Princess Margaret slipped out and joined the crowds outside Buckingham Palace celebrating the end of the war on VE Day! The Queen allegedly called it "one of the most memorable nights of my life".

[Click here to listen](#) to a song, which was shared during wartime and as part of the VE day celebrations.

School is closed over the Bank Holiday weekend, but we are open and here again on Monday 11th May. Remember, even if your child does not have one of the official places in school, we are here for you and you can call any time if you have any worries, concerns or questions.

Take care great care

Theresa Smyth and the Singleton Team