

# Weekly Newsletter

Providing an excellent education from age 2 to 19

8 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your patience and understanding over the past four days and for your kind messages of support. It has been incredibly busy across the Trust since Monday's announcement by the Prime Minister about the new lockdown and closure of schools to most students. We are, however, in a much better position and more well prepared this time around to switch to remote learning and provide support to families.

Thank you to parents and carers for keeping your children at home wherever possible. For those children still attending our schools, we ask that parents and carers remain vigilant of the coronavirus symptoms:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child or anyone in your household or support/childcare bubble has any of these symptoms (however mild) your child must not come into school you should arrange a coronavirus test as soon as possible by calling 119 or visiting: [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test).

## Free school meals update

Families in receipt of free school meals will have been sent details from their school to claim supermarket vouchers to cover the first three weeks of term. We will be issuing a second batch of vouchers to cover the remaining three weeks up to half term. Children in receipt of free school meals who are attending school will receive their meal as normal on the days they are in.

## Contact us

Our schools can be contacted in the usual way by phone or email if you have any questions or need help or support with home learning. Pathfinder's Operations team is also on hand and can be contacted via email at [info@pmat.academy](mailto:info@pmat.academy)

## Home Learning

Our schools have been rolling out their home learning provision this week and will provide further details on how this can be accessed and the expectations for completing work. If you have any issues accessing the work, do not have a suitable device or have limited internet access, please do contact your child's school for more information on the support available for families. This includes the loaning of Chromebooks and free additional data for your mobile device (available on participating mobile networks only).

We have provided some useful tips and advice for home learning and staying safe online on the second page of the newsletter.

In addition to the lessons and resources our schools are providing there are lots of other online platforms with useful quizzes and activities to support you child's learning.



**BBC**  
**Bitesize**  
**Daily**

BBC Bitesize has lessons full of videos, quizzes and practice activities to help you with home learning. For more details, visit: [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize)



**OAK**  
**NATIONAL**  
**ACADEMY**

The Oak National Academy is an online classroom and resource hub created by teachers and supported by the DfE. [Click here](#) to visit the website.



**P.E. WITH JOE IS BACK**

9am  
**Monday**  
**Wednesday**  
**Friday**

Live on The Body Coach TV

## PE with Joe Wicks is back!

Joe Wicks is back from 11 January delivering his 30 minute workout sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9am.

Visit: [www.youtube.com/c/TheBodyCoachTV](http://www.youtube.com/c/TheBodyCoachTV) to join in.

## Top tips for home learning and staying safe online



It can be challenging to keep ourselves focused and motivated outside of our usual structured school and work days. We have put together the following tips and advice which both children and parents may find useful for the weeks ahead.

- Set aside a dedicated area where your child can work each day.
- Read through the task instructions together, so they understand exactly what they need to do.
- Help make sure they have all of the necessary equipment for each piece of work or task.
- Establish a time frame in which to complete a task, this will help them stay focussed.
- Make sure they take regular breaks, especially if they are using a screen.
- Encourage them to keep active.
- Don't panic if children don't understand a task and you can't help them. Contact the school for clarification and move onto a different task.
- Take advantage of the many online resources:

[PE with Joe Wicks](#)

[English with David Walliams](#)

[Music with Myleene Klass](#)

[Maths with Carol Vorderman \(younger children\)](#)

[History with Dan Snow](#)

[Languages with Duolingo](#)

[Science with Maddie Moate](#)

[TedEd \(from the makers of Ted Talks\)](#)

[BBC Bitesize](#)

[Harry Potter at Home](#)

## Online Safety

While in school, children's internet usage is closely monitored and there are systems in place to prevent them from accessing anything harmful. It's a good idea to make sure that you have appropriate filters in place at home while children are using the internet more frequently to access online resources. If you're unsure, your Internet Service Provider will be able to provide you with information on web filtering.

Below are some tips to share with children to help keep them safe while online and make sure they're using the internet correctly:

- Treat others how you would like to be treated. If you wouldn't say something to someone in person, don't say it online.
- Make sure you're aware of how your messages might come across to others.
- Respect other people's privacy.
- Use websites you know are safe.
- Don't talk to anyone you don't know, or arrange to meet them.
- Keep an eye out for unusual pop-ups, adverts or downloads. Don't open them if you think they aren't trustworthy.
- Don't give out personal information about you, your friends or your family to anyone you don't know.
- Only use social networking sites that you are old enough to use – age limits are there for a reason.
- Speak to an adult if something worries you or makes you feel uncomfortable.

### Useful Links

[www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)

[www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide](http://www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide)

[www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety)

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)