Dear parents and carers

I hope you have been able to enjoy some family time and rest over the Easter holidays. The school has been open over the holidays for vulnerable children and children of critical workers and will continue to just be open for these children going forward, in line with government guidance. We do not know how long schools will continue to be shut for and we want to support you as much as possible with home learning.

New topics and learning
The summer term brings exciting new topics and learning for each year group and the teachers will be uploading daily work for your children to complete. There will be three pieces each day: English, maths and topic. Please also continue to read every day and make regular use of Times Table Rock Stars and Spelling Shed. The topic work will be varied and cover as many subjects as possible however some subjects are easier than others to teach remotely; we will not be uploading any specific physical education ‘lessons’! Please make use of your daily exercise time to support your child’s physical wellbeing. Some activities will ask your child to add a comment to the class blog on DB primary or email their teacher – please ensure that these activities in particular are completed as it is important for us to keep in touch.
When the children return to school, please send in all the work they have completed at home; it will be discussed and shared.

Keeping in touch
It is very important that children keep learning and practising their skills and as a school we have a duty to make sure all children are engaging with the work set. Please do not hesitate to email your child’s teacher to ask for any help or advice. Use reception@newlandsspring.essex.sch.uk and your email will be forwarded to the teacher.
Each Friday the teachers will check whether all their class have been accessing the work through the class blog, emails from children, Spelling Shed, Times Table Rock Stars and Tapestry (FS only). If we have not had any contact from you or your child, a member of staff will be in touch the following week to check that all is well, that you are able to access and complete the work set and to offer any support that you may need.

BBC lessons
It has been announced that the BBC will offer daily programmes to help parents and children with schoolwork at home during the lockdown. Starting on 20 April, videos, quizzes, podcasts and articles will appear on BBC Bitesize Daily via the BBC iPlayer, red button, BBC Four and BBC Sounds. The initiative will include 14 weeks of core subject learning to offer "rhythm and routine" for pupils
"whatever your child's age". The content will be divided into age groups and BBC Bitesize online will publish a new Maths and English lesson for every child every day with more subjects to follow. I’m sure these will offer a range of activities and I would encourage you to explore these resources as well.

Transitions
I’m sure some of you will have already been wondering about arrangements for children transitioning to a new class or school as the summer term is traditionally when we have meetings with parents, nursery schools and secondary schools to prepare for our new Foundation Stage children and support our year 6s leaving us to go to secondary school. Please be reassured that we are making plans to ensure these transitions are as smooth as possible and we will be in contact in due course about any new arrangements.

Thank you once again for all your support and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hawkes