



8 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you are all well and coping and adapting to our “new normal” – it is certainly very strange at school. We remain open (including through the school holidays) for the children of key workers and vulnerable children as requested by the DfE. Staff work a rota system to minimise contact and to supervise the small numbers of children. When not in school, teachers are planning the next batch of home learning for your children and working on medium and long term plans for the school, as well as responding to your email queries.

Our aim is to send work out for your children fortnightly. While we understand the difficulties involved in children learning at home, it is important that they keep up with their practise, particularly in core subjects (English, Maths etc) so that their skills remain fresh in their minds. As we are part way through the Easter holidays, most children are not expected to be home learning in the same way as during term time. The next set of work is due to arrive with you week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> April. Please continue to contact your class teacher via the new class email addresses set up if you have any questions related to the work. Any general queries are welcome using the email address [admin@mendleshamschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@mendleshamschool.org.uk) or via phone.

Whilst we are all unable to enjoy the holidays in the normal way – with trips and visits out, I have included some suggestions below for virtual visits and experiences which I hope you may enjoy. I have also attached a copy of the Trust competition.

Best wishes

*Tessa Satt*

#### **Zoos and aquarium**

<https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>

<https://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/webcams/>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/chesterzoo/live>

<https://www.zsl.org/whipsnade-zoo-webcam>

#### **Term Dates**

**2020-2021**

#### **Autumn Term**

Monday 7 September

Friday 18 December

Half term week 26 October

PD Day Friday 27 November

#### **Spring Term**

Tuesday 5 January

Thursday 26 March

Half term week 15 February

#### **Summer Term**

Monday 12 April

Wednesday 21 July

Half term week 31 May

#### **Museums, Galleries and places of interest**

[British Museum](#) – virtually visit the British Museum using Google Street View

[The British Museum](#) has made its online collections free to the public.

The [Natural History Museum](#) has free virtual tours.

The [National Gallery](#) has a great virtual tour

The [Tate Gallery](#) has a 360-degree virtual tour online.

Explore soaring vaulted ceilings & stunning artwork in this [tour of the Sistine Chapel](#).

The famous [Guggenheim museum in New York](#)

View the latest exhibitions at [The National Gallery](#) virtual tours.

Watch [The Wind in the Willows](#) stage production online (small charge £2.99).

[NASA Kids](#) is perfect for space fans. Learn all about the universe we live in by viewing these online videos.

## COMPETITION TIME



### Design a Greetings Card!

We welcome many visitors into our schools and there are a number of occasions when we want to send them a card to say “thank you” or “we’re thinking about you”.

Our competition for learners across the Trust (Early Years through to Post-16) is to design a greetings card which is inspired either by your back garden or the view from your window.

You could choose absolutely anything: trees, animals, plants, flowers, skylines, buildings, a view of your street or your garden itself.

Your entries - black and white or colour - should be submitted on paper size A4 and include your name and the name of your school. Please send your design(s) to:

**JMAT Centre  
Church Road  
Stowupland  
Stowmarket  
IP14 4BQ**

**Closing date: Thursday April 30th, 2020**

There will be a prize for the winning entries and the designs selected will be professionally printed for use across the Trust.