



## Coronavirus School Closure - An Update

A warm hello from Soar Valley! These are indeed strange times, and we will try to keep you up-to-date as much as we can through regular newsletters. These will be available under the Covid-19 Updates tab on the school website, as well as in the usual newsletter section.

Education as we know it has dramatically changed, almost overnight, but staff and students at Soar Valley have adapted incredibly well. The vast majority of students are settling into a routine and completing the work being set by their teachers every day. Should there be any problems, the school reception is open from 9am – 12pm each day. Please bear with us as there are lots of phone calls sometimes. If it is essential, students can come into school between 9 – 10am to print work or sort out technical difficulties.

Not all students are at home. There are a small number of children in school each day, those of key workers and in certain vulnerable groups, and I am very grateful to staff who have been working each day to ensure there is provision for these children.

## Free School Meals



At the time of writing, we are waiting for information from the company contracted by the government to issue vouchers for families of children eligible for free school meals. We will be doing our very best to get these out to families as soon as we possibly can.

## Year 11 Students – Qualifications and Working from Home

We have had a number of queries from Year 11 students and parents about what they should be doing now, given that summer examinations have been cancelled. Our answer is – keep going, certainly for some subjects.

We have been told that students will have the option to take the exams in September, and it may be they decide to do this, especially if the grade they receive in July is not what they were expecting.

Students who are going on to study A-levels will benefit greatly from keeping up-to-date with these subjects. We may be able to source some bridging work for A-levels, more on this after the Easter break.

Students who do not achieve a grade 4 or above in English and/or mathematics will need to re-sit these subjects at college, so keeping up studies in these subjects will be beneficial for those who are potentially on the grade 3/4 borderline.

## And finally....

Lessons will not be set over the Easter break, but there may be some homework or catching up to do. Should you have some free time and be looking for things for the children to do, there are some useful ideas overleaf for the holiday period. Obviously we expect all students to be back online on Monday April 20th, ready to continue working hard!

## Helping the NHS Save Lives

We are proud to be supporting the NHS with the fight against Coronavirus and have today sent lots of goggles from our science labs to the Leicester Royal Infirmary. As we know, the NHS are struggling for protective equipment and we are pleased to be able to play our part.

Schools from across the city have been pooling resources and delivering to the hospitals. The students in school enjoyed knowing they were helping out with such a worthy cause.



## Weekly Quiz Results

How wonderful to see so many students taking part in the regular weekly quiz! Over 75% sent in responses, with the following results:

Year Group	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Top Score
7	Beacon	Bradgate/Victoria	67%
8	Castle/Victoria	Abbey	72%
9	Abbey	Castle/Watermead	75%
10	Victoria	Watermead	69%
11	Beacon	Abbey	93%

## Healthy Start Vouchers

Pregnant women and families with children under four who receive certain benefits can get Healthy Start vouchers. Pregnant women and families with children aged over one and under four years old can get one £3.10 voucher per week. For children under one year old, they can get two £3.10 vouchers (£6.20) per week. The vouchers be used to buy milk, fresh or frozen fruit and vegetables and infant formula milk.

More information can be found on the [Family Information website](http://www.familyinformation.org.uk). Full details and for the application form visit [www.healthystart.nhs.uk](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk) or telephone [0345 607 6823](tel:03456076823). Applications are now easier to complete as a second signature from a health professional is no longer required.



# Holiday Homework!

*Every other day, choose a homework task from the menu below:*

<p><b>Watch a film with your family.</b></p> <p>Challenge: Write a 200 word review of the film, include the positives and the negatives of it.</p>	<p><b>Read a magazine of your choice.</b></p> <p>Challenge: Write a 200 word article for a magazine.</p>	<p><b>Go for a walk with your family.</b></p> <p>Challenge: Write a 200 word diary entry describing your walk.</p>
<p><b>Create a 'Time Capsule' to bury in your garden, include pictures, newspaper clippings and a brief description of your family.</b></p> <p>Challenge: Write a 200 word newspaper article describing life in</p>	<p><b>Sit in the garden for 15 minutes, close your eyes and focus on what you can hear, feel and smell.</b></p> <p>Challenge: Write a 200 word description of your experience, not using your sense of sight to describe.</p>	<p><b>Create an 'Easter Egg Treasure Hunt' for your family or play a board game with your family.</b></p> <p>Challenge: Write a 200 word letter to an older relative describing what happened so that they can feel like they were a part of it.</p>
<p><b>Take sole responsibility for looking after your family pet for the day.</b></p> <p>Challenge: Write a 200 word story; a day in the life of your pet.</p>	<p><b>Cook a meal with your family.</b></p> <p>Challenge: Write a 200 word script for a cookery show explaining what you did. Tip – include command words!</p>	<p><b>Spend an afternoon, gardening, with your family.</b></p> <p>Challenge: Write a 200 word letter to your Head-Teacher requesting that gardening is included in the Health and Wellbeing Curriculum.</p>
<p><b>Tidy your bedroom and organize all your school files and folders.</b></p> <p>Challenge: Write a 200 word 'Guide to Surviving Lockdown' for teenagers. Tip – Make it funny rather than scary!</p>	<p><b>Skype or have an online House Party with a friend / friends.</b></p> <p>Challenge: Create an advert to 'sell' the benefits of using 'House Party' to your parents and grandparents.</p>	<p><b>Complete a 'PE with Joe Wickes' Home-Work out.</b></p> <p>Challenge: Write a 200 word voice over describing your family's workout.</p>