

21 April 2020



Dear parents and carers

### **Today's update**

Everyone has their own thoughts on what's best for our families as we balance home schooling with working from home, and dealing with the emotional burden of the lockdown. A common view is that we should try to make our daily routines, and our children's, simple and manageable.

I don't pretend to be an expert, but for what it's worth, here are my top priorities: keeping active, as far as restrictions will permit, and reading as widely and as often as possible. Suffolk Libraries' [eLibrary](#), for example, provide free access to thousands of the latest eBooks, eAudio titles, magazines, newspapers, films, courses and streaming. You can sign up for a free library card online for children and adults. Happy reading!

### **Digital devices for disadvantaged and vulnerable children**

We have now received some information about laptops and 4G routers, and expect more guidance by tomorrow. To qualify for the scheme, young people and families must not already have access to a laptop, and must be in one of the following groups:

- Children with a social worker
- Care leavers
- Disadvantaged children in Year 10, ahead of sitting their GCSEs next year

Where care leavers, children with a social worker at secondary school and disadvantaged children do not have an internet connection, they will also receive a 4G router. We have started to identify those families that may be eligible, but please contact us if you believe you and your family may qualify. Please note, however, that parents and pupils will not be able to order the devices themselves.

### **Free school meals voucher scheme update**

Edenred, the government's supplier of free school meal vouchers, has struggled to manage demand, but they have assured us that recent improvements to their systems are starting to have a positive impact. If you are having problems, please don't hesitate to let us know.

### **Maths**

Miss Hagley, the subject leader for mathematics, would like you to know that the @stowuplandmaths Twitter account was resurrected at the start of lockdown. It tweets daily maths puzzles, students' progress on Hegarty, and how different maths classes are performing.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Whear'.

Peter Whear

Headteacher