

# NEWSLINE

April 2020  
Issue 1



The diary of a school that is closed but still open. Contributions from members of our wonderful community. Keep them coming. With thanks.

## SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIAL

I pad, mobile phones, gaming platforms, YouTube. A curse or a blessing? Both, probably, but proving really helpful at the moment. These are fabulous tools for schools to keep in touch with families. There are so many interactive educational resources that we can use to enrich home learning. And it will certainly help to give parents' respite over the long days ahead as children are able to keep in touch with each other. But if children are having longer screen time each day, it is so important that you help them to keep safe online. Please visit the school website if you need more advice on how you can help your child(ren) to be safe online.

### The Zoo is Closed But The Animals Could Still Visit You!

SL writes, "We discovered this week that if you type into Google 'facts about (insert animal name)' you can click on a link called 'see life size animal here' and the animal will appear in your house walking/swimming/flying around from all angles. It works on iPhone 6 up. You also might read the animal facts after! Doesn't work for every animal, penguins, lions, tigers, eagles, octopus, snakes and wolves will work. Great fun!" Look at Gene and Chet with an emperor penguin in their living room.



<https://www.facebook.com/NSAcolchester/>

**N.S.A.**

The NSA has created a new Facebook Page where they will be posting links and updates that may be helpful over the coming weeks, including info about online yoga from Yogababes and other online activities. It is full of a wide range of really good ideas already.

### Have a Story Writing Lesson with a Real Author

You all know that to use Instagram you have to be 13. So for your child(ren) to be able to watch author Lisa Thompson they will have to use your device. Probably most suited to KS2. Lisa's approach is very warm and friendly. You can see her earlier recordings and also join her live. Check her out on instagram, [Lisathompsonwrites](#). With thanks to TB

### Have a Cartoon Drawing Lesson with a Real Artist

JB has discovered Pete McKee on YouTube. His 5 minute films are great little drawing workshops. Go to YouTube, [Pete Mckee's Cartoon Workshop](#). With thanks to JB

## DAY 7 Tuesday 31st March

We had 14 children today, ranging from a Nursery child who was in with her sister to year 6. We started off with Cosmic Yoga to Moana which was great fun. The children then drew fantastic family portraits and designed a frame for their pictures. What budding artists we have.

After lunch the children learnt about the migration of swallows. They followed the instructions to make a swallow out of clay and card. Then they took them on a perilous journey from South Africa to here at North Primary. The children were asked to look out for their arrival in April/May.

Miss Sutenwood reporting

### PLEASE NOTE

Page 2 looks the same and key contact information will remain on it but it does get updated so please read that page too.

### EASTER PARADE 2020

It will be such a shame to not hold our Easter Parade on Friday - the last official day of term. Hopefully the children will still make hats and maybe wear them on their daily walk or cycle. Send in your photos and videos.

“Everyone is feeling extremely anxious and concerned about the weeks ahead and making plans to fill your children’s time. You may have high hopes for hours of learning including online activities, science experiments and book reviews. In many ways it is good to have a timetable to maintain normality, but these are not normal times. Children are confused, anxious and upset even though some may initially celebrate no school! Their reality is now not seeing their friends or running off energy at playtime or sharing stories of their weekend. A large proportion of your time will be spent comforting and reassuring your children. You can bake, play board games, race around the garden, learn to juggle, explore new topics on the internet or even just snuggle under a blanket on the sofa watching films. If I can leave you with a thought before the home schooling adventure begins, it is that the happiness and security of your children is far more important than their academic progress. The weeks ahead will have an impact on all of us, aim to do something uplifting which brings optimism so that your children will remember positive family time rather than fear and anxiety.”

### Keeping in touch whilst the school is “closed”.

Whilst your children are not at school please remember the following:

Email or ring the school if you need advice on parenting. We will endeavour to respond as soon as we can.

In a crisis ring:

NSPCC 0808 800 5000  
Family Operations Hub 0345 603 7627

If you have money/housing worries contact Colchester Borough Council 01206 282222.

If you need help with food contact the school to get a virtual foodbank voucher.

School Nurse. Tracy MacDougall, the school nurse will be keeping in touch with some families.

Family Support Worker, Amanda Rowe, will no longer be doing home visits but will support families over the phone.

### Achieve a Balance

Companies are getting involved and many are offering free resources. Click on this link to find out just some of what is available out there. <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/mar/29/learning-apps-for-stir-crazy-kids-while-schools-are-closed>

If you come across a useful app or site let us know and we will share with other families.

### Mix up home learning with fun things to do together

### EXERCISE & GET LOTS OF FRESH AIR

### Join the Thursday 5.00pm Club

Visit **COLCHESTER PARENTING** on Facebook and access lots of fun, creative activities.

### BAKE

LEARN A NEW SKILL TOGETHER— YOUTUBE IS GREAT FOR DIY GUIDES

Get the children to watch their favourite DVD films with the sound down and subtitles on and get them to read in the voice of the characters!

### YOGA

The children in school. Their teacher, Naomi lessons on facebook.

could teach you. Many do it Davies, will also put

Visit the NSA Facebook page

Mr. Bosch is putting some resources on the website

Dear Families of North,  
Be creative!  
If you have any instrument - play it,  
Write a song - sing it,  
It doesn't matter if you think you are able to or not.  
Remember this:  
“When you pick up that instrument,  
When you make up that song,  
When you then get your family to sing along, others listen whenever they can, You will have created a thing that is new, And the world will be happier, all because of you.”  
I look forward to hearing all the beautiful music that I know you can all create when we are all back together again.  
Stay Safe

Mr Bosch

### TERM DATES

7th September 2020

First day of new school year

### GARDENING

Mon 7th September 2020

Year 6 Residential to Weymouth