

# WILLOWBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rosen Crescent, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 2TU

Headteacher: Mrs C Branton: B.Ed. (Hons), NPQH.

Deputy Headteacher Miss J Cox - Assistant Headteacher Mrs S Rich

Telephone: 01277 214662 Fax: 01277 200436

Website: [www.willowbrook.essex.sch.uk](http://www.willowbrook.essex.sch.uk) E-mail: [admin@willowbrook.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@willowbrook.essex.sch.uk)



Dear Parent/Carers,

I have collated a list of resources and support that you may find useful to dip into at this time.

## Essex Libraries

Your children's library favourites are now online!

Essex Library Services are bringing our popular rhymetimes, story times and crafts online with videos featuring our library stars from across Essex. Families can enjoy sharing stories, join in with actions and sing along to favourite nursery rhymes, and be inspired to build, craft and create. We'll share these children's videos on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) throughout the week. You'll find links to any [rhymetime and story time](#) or any [craft time](#) you may have missed on our website. For more information [read the full story on our website](#).

## Education Endowment Foundation – online learning resources

The Education Endowment Foundation have today released new Covid-19 resources to support parents with home learning. They can be accessed [here](#).

## National Home Learning Support Helpline for Parents

A national parent helpline has been set up, known as StarLine, and backed by the new virtual Oak Academy, as well as Star Academies, the Confederation of School Trusts, Triple P UK and a number of academy trusts. It is also staffed by Ofsted inspectors who have been redeployed alongside teachers to provide advice about home learning to parents. The helpline is designed to help you create regular routines and study habits, offering practical steps to take and access to resources, such as support with a specific topic or advice on how to structure the day, deal with difficult behaviour or manage the learning of several children.

***StarLine is open six days a week and covers all areas of the curriculum across all phases of education. The number to call is 0330 313 9162 (calls charged at local rate).***

## Amazing minds

Amazing minds have put together a free short online wellbeing and emotional literacy programme for parents and children to use during this period of homeschooling. The programme has activities for the adults to do if they wish, as well as the children. Here's a link to the free programme <https://amazing-s-school.thinkific.com/>

## Video from Learn-AT

Learn-AT have shared a video from Hugo, a mental health trainer and experienced child psychologist, about how to talk to children about the current COVID-19 situation and the anxieties this may be causing. Hugo works with Oakwood Training, a local business based in Market Harborough that provides mental health training within education and to many national children's charities. The video is available on the Learn-AT website at <https://www.learnat.uk/covid-19/oakwood-training-video>

## Support for families and young people

The DfE had updated its [guidance for parents](#) to include advice on maintaining their family's wellbeing while their children are at home.

## Every Child Matters

Every Family Matters is a new campaign launched by ECC, aimed at sign-posting parents and carers to advice, resources and support across three key areas – children's mental health, social distancing and young people, and online safety. A new area on the ECC website – [Staying Well Children and Families](#) - has been created and includes information, guidance and resources to help them at this time.

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### Supporting vulnerable families

Essex County Council are aware of the additional pressures that lots of families are facing given the current circumstances and are working hard to ensure they have the support they need. Self-isolation and social distancing, though vital in the current circumstances, can place extra pressure on family relationships, or increase existing tensions. However, there is support available to help families, including services that can [support healthy family relationships](#) and those that can help anyone – men and women - aged 16+ experiencing [domestic abuse](#). I would encourage you to share these details as appropriate.

### Local Community Support in Brentwood

Brentwood Community Support Network is a number of organisations that are working together to provide support to the most vulnerable residents in the Borough during the Coronavirus pandemic. These include Brentwood Borough Council, Parish Councils, Brentwood Council for Voluntary Service, Brentwood Foodbank, Daily Bread Café and Manna Meals. These are supported by a number of voluntary organisations which have been set up across the Borough such as Mutual Aid and Brentwood Residents Action Group.

The support network can help with the following:

1. Emergency food parcels for those that cannot afford to pay for food (due to a change in circumstances)
2. Help with food shopping for those that can afford to pay but are able to get food shopping as they are shielding
3. Help with the pick-up and collection of prescriptions or medicines
4. Social contact support for those that need a telephone befriending service.

There is also a lot of information on the Council's website if you need information or signposting to support agencies [www.brentwood.gov.uk](http://www.brentwood.gov.uk) or telephone 01277 312500.

We recognise that these are challenging times and peoples circumstances may have changed dramatically with less income coming into the household so the following organisations can provide support.

**Peabody** who offer floating support:

Phone numbers for Brentwood:

Grant McManus - 07960 728426

Denise Monk - 07961959568

Lyn Pigeon - 07534 223088

Myra McCutcheon - (mon-thurs) 07950480350

**Citizens Advice Brentwood** – provides advice on benefits, debt and housing advice

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/south-essex/>

0300 330 2101

**Job Centre Plus**

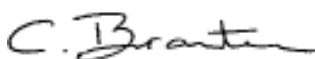
Telephone: 0845 604 3719

Department of Works and Pension

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits>

I hope that you find the information useful and are all keeping safe and well at this time. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Branton  
Headteacher

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