



Alameda Middle School

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8th May 2020

Weekly Update

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well and enjoying some sunshine. As we approach the end of another week, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all once again, for the fantastic support you continue to provide to our pupils. I truly appreciate how challenging it is to motivate and support children on a daily basis in such extraordinary circumstances – I also know how little I know about certain subjects! We appreciate that every family's day may look different but encouraging your child/children to have a planned structure each day really helps. The positive messages and examples of pupil's work that have come in have been amazing and we will continue to celebrate and share with the Alameda community on our website.

75TH Anniversary of VE Day

As I am sure you have seen, Friday 8th May is the 75th anniversary of VE Day, a special celebration for many commemorating the victory in Europe during World War Two. We use this to remember the enormous sacrifices that were made over the duration of the conflict, both from those that actively participated in the conflict and the hardships faced by those at home. Many of the parents will recall the 50th anniversary celebrations – unfortunately this time, we are going to be unable to mark the occasion in the same way, but it is still a good opportunity to examine the events leading to VE Day and explore the history and legacy of the event. This might take the form of independent research, as I know the subject is a popular one with many of our students. However, there is a wealth of resources available that might give some inspiration or a starting point to begin with.

The British Legion have produced some excellent resources for those wishing to explore VE Day independently, perhaps as an alternative or supplement to this week's history activities. These can be found here –

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/teaching-remembrance>

English Heritage have also put together some fun activities linked to the way that people celebrated, including learning to Lindy Hop and some examples of recipes that people made for the celebrations –

<https://youtu.be/1TmPHBgn1Es>

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/visit/ve-day-75/eh-ve-day-at-home-pack.pdf>

Bletchley Park have put together a Spotify playlist of music of the time –

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4HBes8yZUGRy4mM6Xq3f8H>

The Imperial War Museum have created a virtual soundscape that will be available from the 8th –

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/victory>

And lastly, the BBC will be showing VE Day 75: The People's Celebration on Friday evening, including Winston Churchill's speech and a singalong with Dame Vera Lynn –

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000hyw2>

It would be great to share your celebrations with the rest of the school – please feel free to send any you would like to share to me at dcorbett@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk

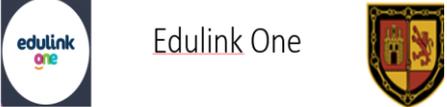
Mr D Corbett
Subject Leader for Humanities

Edulink One Update

We would like to send our apologies to those who were frustrated this week with the English homework set on Edulink One. We identified a problem, which we have not encountered in the past, when setting homework on Edulink. When we do this, there is a text box in which we can write some information. What we were not aware of, is the limit we can write, before those logging on then have difficulty in seeing the attachments to the homework. Now we are aware of the issue, all of our teachers know to keep the text brief and add further detail in the attachments themselves.

Thank you to those people who emailed to tell us about the problem, which we quickly investigated and rectified on Monday back in school. We very much appreciate your patience in this matter. Some of you have also told us that you are only using Edulink on your phone and that this makes it difficult to access the activities set. We hope this reminder about how to access Edulink would help if you have access to a lap top or tablet for your child to use. One of the aims is to reduce the amount of printing required at home.

How to login to Edulink one on any internet device

 <p>Type in Edulink One in your search bar. A blue screen appears asking for the school ID Type in alameda and click the bottom bar</p>	<p>This screen appears</p> 	<p>Login the same way as you login to a computer in normally, with the same username and password you can save this so you do not have to keep typing it each time.</p>
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Activities for Home Learning - Weekly Overviews

Thank you for your positive feedback on the weekly home learning overviews. These are designed to provide a central point to signpost you to activities posted elsewhere. The updated ones for next week will be added to the website. We do aim for all of the activities on Edulink to match with the overviews but where there is any difference, we encourage the pupils to choose the activity they prefer and feel would bring the most benefit. May I also remind you that you are welcome to contact your child's teacher if you have any queries.

We are continuing to work on the way in which activities are shared – see below about Google Classroom.

Don't forget to look out for Alameda TV on YouTube and for Alameda maths and English on Instagram. These are set up to try to make activities more interesting.

[Year 5 Home Learning Weekly Overview](#)

[Year 6 Home Learning Weekly Overview](#)

[Year 7 Home Learning Weekly Overview](#)

[Year 8 Home Learning Weekly Overview](#)

Activities for home learning – Google Classroom

While we want to try to keep the systems as simple as possible, we are continuing to work on ways to improve the activities we provide at this time and also where technology will still support learning once we return to normal. We are currently in the process of setting up Google Classroom. At the moment, this involves getting Google accounts for all staff and pupils, allocating everyone to "classes", providing training for our teachers, ensuring safeguarding is considered carefully and planning for implementation of this to try to make the introduction as smooth as possible.

More information will follow next week. The current plan is to continue with the weekly overviews through the transition as the feedback on these has generally been positive. We are hoping to provide a "check in" to lessons – while these won't be at set times, it will enable our teachers to check that activities have been accessed and also provide some feedback. Google Classroom will, like our YouTube channel, allow teachers to post videos. We are not planning live, lessons at this time. The reasons for this are around ensuring all agreements and safeguarding procedures are in place and also to ensure we allow for families who have busy work schedules. We believe, however, that we will be able to continue to improve the way we set and check activities to support home learning.

Your feedback is important

While many of you have been in touch with us or have shared views elsewhere, we wanted to take the opportunity to gather your views on the provision in general since schools were closed to the majority of pupils. To do this, we ask that you complete a short survey using Edulink. You should have received a message via Edulink about this. If you haven't, please contact us via the school office.

We ask that you do this by Thursday 14th May please in order to help with our next steps of planning. Thank you to all who have provided feedback so far.

Check in

Over the next few weeks, you will receive an email, postcard and telephone call from your child's tutor.

Support for families

We wish to continue to support our families that may require pastoral or safeguarding support during this difficult time for everyone. Should you need access to pastoral support please email:

lfox@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk

krichardson@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk

hknight@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk

These email address will be checked regularly and we will endeavour to respond by email, or a phone call where possible, with any advice we can offer or to signpost you in the right direction. We will still be able to liaise with outside agencies such as Health, Early Help and Children's Services. Should you need to contact Children's Services in an emergency or for help and advice please call: 0300 300 8585

Free School meals

We understand that for some of our parents, circumstances may have changed recently and you may now be eligible for free school meals. If you think you may be eligible you can review more information here.

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/53/benefits/4/free_school_meals

National Online Safety

In the current environment, many of us are using different ways to try and keep in touch with our friends and family. We are continuing to show our commitment to protecting our pupils online through our on-going work with **National Online Safety**. This online site provides information about online dangers and the newest platforms, the effects online vs offline identities can have on a child's mental health, wellbeing and lifestyle and what online risks to look out for and how to protect your child as well as all the latest online safety news.

<http://www.alamedamiddleschool.org.uk/page/?title=National+Online+Safety&pid=217>

And finally

I hope you all manage to stay safe and healthy over the bank holiday weekend. It is times like these, where we can reflect and appreciate what is important in our lives. Look after one another.

Yours sincerely



Louise Fox

Deputy Headteacher

On behalf of the Alameda Leadership Team