



# NEWTON ELEMENTARY

13359 – 81 Avenue

Surrey, B.C. V3W 3C5

Telephone: 604-596-8621 Fax: 604-596-6912

[www.surreyschools.ca/newtonelementary](http://www.surreyschools.ca/newtonelementary)

March 31st, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope that during this unprecedented time of uncertainty posed by the COVID-19 pandemic that you and your family are safe and well. As we negotiate our Provincial Health Officer's decision to combat the spread by indefinitely suspending in-class instruction, we ask for your patience and understanding as we navigate this uncharted situation together as a community.

We know this decision has a significant impact on all but there's nothing more important than the health, safety and well-being of our students, families and staff. Our teachers care deeply about their students, and are committed to ensuring your family is provided with learning opportunities as they learn at home. We've been working together with our staff to discuss ways to shift to this new learning environment. It will take time for teachers and students to establish new routines. Please keep in mind that the Surrey School District will focus on literacy and numeracy learning opportunities. Clearly, we are unable to provide a full day of academic work as this would be overwhelming for children and families, and is not realistic or necessary at this time. Unfortunately, it is not possible to replicate the entire classroom and school experience at home.

I realize, first hand, the challenges of juggling children, managing a household, working from home and remote schooling all while dealing with the stress during these very challenging times. As such, we will be 'easing' into our approach for home learning. Our first task is to ensure that we are able to make contact with you at home. **Please be sure to check and respond to all emails, alerts, FreshGrade and DOJO posts and to answer any phone calls. Your child's teacher or another staff member may be trying to make contact with you from private numbers.** Our aim is to reach out to all of our families by the end of this week. Our second task, will be to attempt to provide access to technology for those children who may not have computers or other devices at home. We have limited resources, but will happily work with families to make sure students have access to the technology they need. Please email me at [leriche\\_s@surreyschools.ca](mailto:leriche_s@surreyschools.ca) if you or someone you know may need assistance with access to on-line learning.

While teachers and schools will support continuous learning in the weeks ahead, government has launched ***Keep Learning BC***. This is a central place where families can find ideas for everyday educational activities, links to free learning resources, as well as how to help children learn and stay well while they are at home. Keep Learning BC is available at: [www.openschool.bc.ca/keeplearning/](http://www.openschool.bc.ca/keeplearning/)

Please see the additional page with suggested ideas for home learning opportunities for this week. Once we have been able to contact all families and our staff has had an opportunity to plan and prepare, teachers will be sharing on-line activities. This will likely begin early next week.

I would be very pleased to provide any additional information or support your family in any way possible. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 604-506-7609 at anytime. Most importantly, I am wishing you and your family good health as we navigate these difficult times together.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. S. le Riche

*We are a community of lifelong learners who: celebrate diversity,  
strive for our personal best, while respecting others and ourselves.*