



Fishbourne C E Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs N Day MA (Ed)
26th March 2020

Dear Parents,

As we come towards the end of this first week of school closures we are writing to you just to touch base and send our very best wishes. Thank you for putting your rainbows up in your windows; it has been wonderful to see them up and lots of members of the wider community have commented on how much they have enjoyed seeing them. Thank you!



It is likely that your week will have had some wonderful moments and some more challenging ones and we want to reassure you that this is what weeks in school are often like - days when everything clicks into place without any problem at all and days when we need to rethink our approach!



Please don't forget that we will post the next learning letters up on our school website and available in the entrance hall for collection on Monday morning. These have been very warmly received by our families and we have had lots of positive feedback about them.

Do feel free to dip in and out of other class learning letters too... there are so many lovely ideas!

We will be adding a new page to our website under the LEARNING tab where you will be access a range of picture and chapter books read to you by members of our Fishbourne staff team. We will add to these over time. If you are unsure how to access the films with the QR codes, do give us a call and we will help guide you through - they are very easy to use and the staff have put together some lovely films for you to use!



If you have any feedback you would like us to take into account before we start to refine our approach to learning letters for after the Easter holidays. Please do feel free to drop me an email at: head@fishbourneprimary.co.uk

We are also available at school if you have any worries or concerns and we warmly encourage you to pick up the phone. Between 10am and 11am we have a teacher on the phone line who can support any queries or concerns you have about home learning - we would be very happy to help in any way that we are able!



A University of Chichester
ITT Partner School



You can also contact your class teachers using your class email address:

Reception - Hippos@fishbourneprimary.co.uk

Y1 - Elephants@fishbourneprimary.co.uk

Y2 - Penguins@fishbourneprimary.co.uk

Y3 - Koalas@fishbourneprimary.co.uk

Y4 - Panthers@fishbourneprimary.co.uk

Y5 - Tigers@fishbourneprimary.co.uk

Y6 - Meerkats@fishbourneprimary.co.uk

Teaching staff will check their class email address every week day and reply briefly to any messages sent!

Keep up to date with what's going on via our school website, twitter (@FishbournePrim1) and Instagram (fishbourneprimary).

With our every best wish for the coming weeks.

Kindest regards,

Naomi Day



You might be inclined to create a minute by minute schedule for your children. You have high hopes of hours of learning, including online activities, science experiments, and book reviews. You'll limit technology until everything is done! But here's the thing...

Our children are just as scared as we are right now. Our children not only can hear everything that is going on around them, but they feel our constant tension and anxiety. They have never experienced anything like this before. Although the idea of being off of school sounds awesome, they are probably picturing a fun time like the summer holidays, not the reality of being trapped at home and not seeing their friends.

Over the coming weeks, you may see an increase in challenging behaviour. Whether it's anxiety, or anger, or protest that they can't do things normally - it may happen. You may see more meltdowns, tantrums, and oppositional behaviour in the coming weeks. This is normal and expected under these circumstances.

What children need right now is to feel comforted and loved. To feel like it's all going to be ok. And that might mean that you tear up your perfect schedule and love your children a bit more. Play outside and go on a walk. Bake biscuits and paint pictures. Play board games and watch films. Do a science experiment together or find virtual field trips of the zoo. Start a book and read together as a family. Snuggle under warm blankets and do nothing.

Don't worry about them regressing in school. Every single child is in this boat and they all will be ok. When we are back in the classroom, we will of course meet them where they are. Teachers are experts at this! Don't pick fights with your children because they don't want to do maths. Don't mandate 2 hours of learning time if they are resisting it.

If I can leave you with one thing, it's this: at the end of all of this, your child's mental health will be more important than their academic skills. And how they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during those 4 weeks is long gone. So keep that in mind, every single day.

(Anonymous source)