

3 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

In the most unusual way possible we have reached the end of the spring term. From 20th March 2020 you were asked to keep your children at home wherever possible, as we remained open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response who absolutely needed to attend.

I am so proud to say that we have been able to ensure the safety of our staff who must self-isolate and ensure rotating staff teams can provide on-site care for a small number of children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and have nobody at home to care for them.

We would like to thank you for your patience as we have worked hard on smoothing out the remaining technical difficulties this week. When we learnt that some of the posting methods and links were ineffective on some types of device, we worked quickly to make changes and test them out. We know this is all new, so thank you and the staff for persevering with this challenge.

We have been overwhelmed by engagement of families when we see the portfolio posts and messages from you as you settle into new routines of home learning, possibly alongside working from home too. We appreciate that getting to grips with new dynamics following the 'stay at home' message is tough, but we can do this! I am lucky enough to be able to see all of the classes and portfolios in the Dojo and find it 'happily emotional' seeing how we are all still connecting while apart.

As we begin the Easter break from Monday 4th April, we will stop the remote learning for two weeks. However, school will continue to open for those families who have a parent that must leave the house to go in to work – thanks from us to you for being out there to keep things moving, looked after and cared for.

We do however understand that with this ongoing lengthy period of time away from the routine of school, it may be that you want to continue to build a little structure into these weeks too. If you are looking for ideas, why not scroll back through the Whole School Story which had an extra idea posted each day or try some of the project ideas on the overview sheet in your envelope. Also, if your child is increasing their device time, don't forget some of the links you may have used over these past weeks and encourage them to try a varied range of games, or make the most of any of the good weather we may have and get outside in the garden.

Finally we know that this experience is difficult and that many pressures will be upon each and every family. Attached with this email is a well-being pack – ideas, suggestions, prompts – these are not intended as activities, more ways to help conversations which may be of benefit if we feel they need to understand and respond to different feelings that crop up during this time. Remember to take care of the whole of you and your family during these unprecedented times.

We look forward to finding out what you have been up to when we resume our remote learning uploads on Monday 20th April from 9.30 and your teachers will be back online. In the meantime, please take care and enjoy this time with your family.

Stay safe, stay well and take care

Warmest wishes

Hayley Adams