

24.3.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now into our second week of the school closure with many families across the country in self isolation. I hope this letter finds you safe and in good health. This is a stressful time for many people in Buckfastleigh and I have heard that the community is really pulling together to support the vulnerable.

Our staff have stayed in contact with you over this time with messages on Class Dojo and homelearning suggestions for the children. We understand that many of you may feel overwhelmed and under pressure to look after and provide for your families and support your children with homelearning at the same time. I hope the following will help somewhat:

- 1) This is not home schooling which is a choice and something that is planned for. This is an unprecedented emergency situation impacting the whole world. In reality, we are trying to provide support for distance learning and every child and family will use it differently – that's ok because there isn't a right or wrong way.
- 2) You are, and always have been, your child's primary educator. If you decide your child isn't going to engage with anything sent home and is going to spend their time playing with siblings, watching TV, baking, talking with friends online or making things then that is your choice. Please don't stress or feel guilty about it.
- 3) Schools feel much like you and are learning how best to manage this situation. There has been no preparation time for this and we are all learning as we go.
- 4) All children and adults will react to this in different ways. If what your family needs is to watch a movie together, play a game or sit down and just talk, then that is more important than homework.

From the week after the Easter Holiday, we will stay in contact with you weekly. Whole school messages will go out on our website, Parent Pay and Class Dojo. Teachers will send out homelearning ideas at the start of each week on Class Dojo. During the week, they will regularly check their Class Dojo accounts and respond to messages from you or your children. They will also send out a number of challenges or activities to interest and engage your children throughout the week. It is up to

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you about what your child does but we hope that it is motivating and interesting and keeps them busy during the many hours of being at home.

Over the rest of this week, teachers will be calling you to check how things are and make sure we have the correct phone numbers, email addresses and home addresses for families. They also want to find out if the information and learning sent home so far has been helpful. I would encourage all parents to sign up to Class Dojo as this is a great way to get the most up to date information from school and something we will be continuing to use in when we go back to school.

Buckfastleigh Primary School will be staying closed and Educare is currently based at Ashburton Primary School. It is only supporting a few key worker families to support the NHS. Thank you to everyone for not putting extra pressure on the system and keeping staff and children safe.

If you need us, contact can be made in the following ways:

- Ashburton Primary School – 01364 652343
- School Mobile – 07960144296
- Email – admin@buckfastleigh.devon.sch.uk

Take care and I look forward to seeing what all the children have been doing on Class Dojo.

Best wishes

Eddie Brown

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