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Principal: Mrs G Hay B.Ed. (Hons.) PQH

18th April 2020

Dear Parent

I would like to again take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all our staff, parents and, most importantly, children for staying at home to stay safe, for keeping in touch and for doing such amazing work at home.

To those of you who are keyworkers, we value the work you are doing so much and appreciate the fact that you have not called upon us so considerably that it cannot adequately be put into words. Again, thank you. If you find that, as time goes on, you do require us, I ask that you email me on a Friday for the week ahead.

I hope you have all had a wonderful Easter break, enjoying the superb weather but now that our holidays have finished we will be beginning a new period of learning from home. From Monday 20th April, each teacher will be uploading 3 pieces of literacy and numeracy work to the home learning area of our website every week. They may also add some topic related activities and direct you to some useful websites. Over the next number of weeks some learning videos will also be popping up. You will be able to post comments to the work given which will be really useful if you have a clarifying question to ask about the piece of work set. I will also be adding additional activities to the 'Activities for everyone' section of the home learning area and sharing learning ideas / competitions etc. on our Facebook page.

To complete the activities set by your child's class teacher you will not require a printer. Some activities can be completed online and others can be completed on a sheet of paper as long as your child can see the task set on a screen.

We ask that you send your child's teacher at least 1 piece of work per week and that each piece of work as is sent when it is completed rather than at the end of the week. If an online game has been set you can send your child's teacher a comment about how your child got on or a screen shot of the result of the game. For practical activities you can also send a comment or a photo. If you do NOT want the photos shared on our website and / or social media, please state this when sending the photo. If you are particularly proud of something your child has completed, please cc me in the email to your child's teacher. For P1/2 and P4 please send the work to Mrs Young and Mrs McCusker respectively and cc Miss Sayers.

I would like to make it very clear that this work is set for you to complete **as and when you can**, but please keep in touch with your child's teacher so he / she knows how your child is getting on.

I very much appreciate the challenges faced by parents who are working shifts as keyworkers, who are juggling working from home at the same time as home schooling and who have children of different ages and stages at home. The DPS team only want you to do what you can and what is manageable, and let us know if you need any help with anything.

There will be days or weeks when more work is done than others but if you can keep the children reading that is most important, and always remember there is learning everywhere! Baking, building forts with blankets and cushions, playing board games, building Lego, imaginative play, writing pen pal letters to friends they are missing, keeping a lock down diary, making a time capsule – do what is fun and helps keep everyone happy – health and wellbeing needs to come first during these challenging and uncertain times.

BBC bitesize is doing daily learning <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zn9447h> which may be useful too.

Our school App will be our main way of contacting parents so please download it if you haven't already. Just go to www.donemanaps.com on your device and you will see the link for downloading our App.

If your child is missing school or being a reluctant home schooler and needs a phone call of encouragement, please send me an email and their class teacher or I will be in touch within a few days.

School will be open on Monday 20th April from 11am – 3pm to collect mental maths books. As on previous occasions please arrange to collect for multiple families if you can and apply social distancing – you will be buzzed in but not greeted by a member of staff (all books are labelled), if someone is in the foyer please wait in the playground 2 meters apart, and wash your hands on entering and leaving the foyer.

If there is anything else we can do to help, please get in touch.

Kind regards,
Mrs G Hay
(Principal)
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