

Awliscombe C of E Primary School
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Payhembury C of E (VC) Primary
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Head of School: Mr Nick Bladon

The FORT Federation

“Living, loving and learning forever; becoming the best as we journey together.”

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Penny Hammett

Dear Parents,

I would like to begin with a massive thank you to you all. You are doing an incredible job at home. We can tell from the children's work that there is a serious amount of hard work taking place. Can I also thank you from the staff, there have been some really lovely comments /feedback from families and my staff are really appreciative? Added to the fact they are seeing the children every day in the Google Meet it is definitely not feeling so strange now.

My only worry is that you are too hard on yourselves at home. Many of the maths strategies and learning content is so different from when we were in school it is so much harder to support our children. All we ask is that you have a go and keep to the timings suggested. Don't spend ages on one thing and don't worry if you can't do it.

I wanted this week to focus on positive aspects of our weeks learning. So, I wanted to share that we have introduced lateral flow testing for all staff members this week. Hopefully this will provide earlier indications if we have asymptomatic adults within school. We have no end dates for this so I am predicting this will continue for some time.

Thank you so much also for your support in using the admin email address to raise questions or concerns from parents regarding the home schooling. It has made a big difference this week.

Here are some more comments I thought you might like to read. I have collated a few precious comments from the staff, parents and pupils about this week.

- **Every** teacher said the best part of the day is when they meet in the morning. Seeing the smiley faces, sharing stories and laughing together.
- 'I was sent a clip of a child singing to me 'down in the jungle' ... It made me so happy inside'
- 'Seeing 27 smiley faces on Google Classroom makes my day.'
- Watching the children grow in confidence, I can see it with each piece of work they turn in. The quality and standard of work is so good.
- From some year 5 and 6 children.. it's getting easier every week. We like Google Classroom as it keeps us organised and we know what we are doing each day.
- From a parent... each week I am learning more, and it is getting easier.
- The bread making this week has been such a success. The uploaded pictures are great.

If you require an exercise book for your child to work in, please give the office a call. We can arrange for you to pick one up. I know not all work is on the computer and keeping work together really helps.

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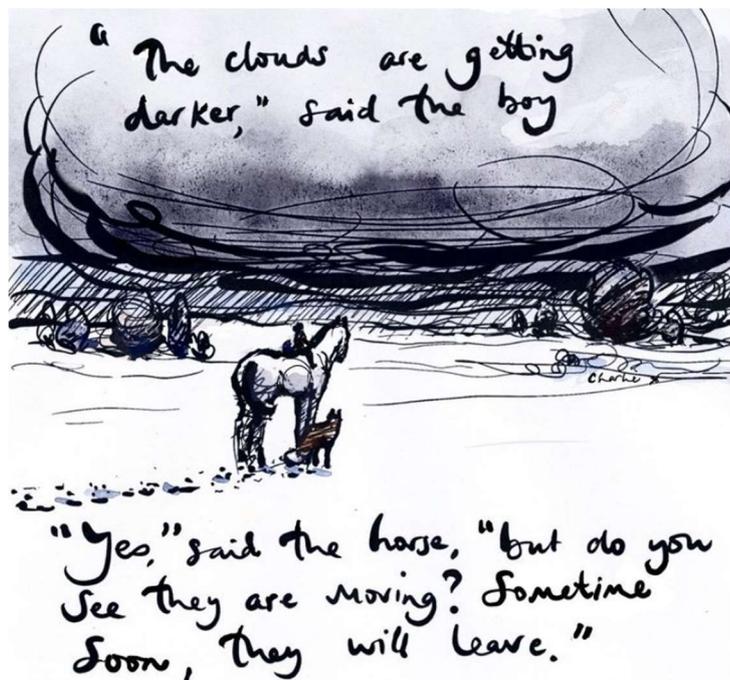
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Also, if you are having problems with your child's device please let us know. We hopefully could help.

Don't forget 'The Big Bird Watch' this weekend. I have suggested the children take pictures or draw their own of their favourite garden bird and upload to Google Classrooms. I will make a school display of the birds for their return in March (hopefully).



So finally, to the picture. A member of staff left it on my chair. It's a reminder that we are moving forward even though we feel stuck at the moment. I appreciate the 8th March (fingers crossed) seems a long way off but at least it is a date to aim to. We are eager to have the children back just like the clouds that move over us and away. We are getting closer every day.

by Charlie Macksey

<https://www.charliemackesy.com/#the-book> This link is to an amazing book called “The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse”, by Charlie Mackesy. It is very uncomplicated and so simple to read but reminds of the special things in our lives. It definitely pulled at my heart strings.

Have a good weekend,

Mrs Hammett

Penny Hammett
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