



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

The FORT Federation
Executive Headteacher: Mrs Penny Hammett

15th January 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all keeping well?

I wanted to write to say thank you for your continued support. Most teachers have been in contact with families and hopefully by the end of the week we would have been able to talk to you all.

The majority of feedback has been very positive and we are pleased with the response to the home learning.

However, we are acutely aware how difficult it is to manage home learning while looking after very young children, trying to work from home or manage more than one child through home learning every day. We really do understand your frustrations regarding ICT issues, printing work, attention spans and a whole list of other barriers to making home learning so frustrating.

We are in discussions everyday trying to tweak the remote learning, taking onboard your issues and adapting things to make it easier. I would like to remind you that we have never had to try and teach children from home in this way before and we are genuinely learning and exploring this alongside you. The previous lockdown was very different to the new expectations of remote learning this time.

We are trying to pre-empt your issues which can be very individual, while at the same time supporting all the children in and out of the classroom, which is very complex.

Each day all staff are working in their classrooms teaching and supporting the children that have had to come to school. Currently we still have 1/3 of all pupils in school. Teachers are required to teach, supervise, maintain cleaning regime, cover all breaks and lunchtimes with their bubbles, support home learning each day and contact families who need support, prepare the work for the next day and soon provide ongoing feedback. They are all working flat out to keep all the balls juggling. So, I would ask that you are patient with us over the next few weeks while we iron out the issues that are bound to occur.

Google classroom is now set up and we will be using it to send out all remote learning from Monday. We will send an email with your log on details and an instruction page to help get you started.

Initially I would encourage you to have a play with the site. We have included work from this week so that you can see what it will look like but we will actually upload new work first thing



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Monday morning. Work will be available every day from 8am for you to use at your own discretion throughout the day to fit in with your own home situation.

This will be the first phase of introducing Google classroom to all the children. The second phase will move into live meet sessions with the teacher and we hope to start these meetings on Wednesday 20th January. An instruction page will be sent to you on Tuesday through the google classroom. These sessions will allow the children to come together to talk and discuss issues with their teacher in a small group.

Going forward, we hope to schedule regular meet sessions and this will become the third phase of offering regular feedback together.

We hope you will find Google classroom an aid to remote learning but it won't sort out all issues you may have and initially I would expect a number of additional problems. As you can imagine trying to roll this out without face-to-face contact isn't going to be easy but if you can be patient with us, I am sure we will get there.

I hope you are all keeping yourselves safe, if you need any support, especially if it's not related to home learning please don't hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend,

Mrs Hammett

Penny Hammett

Executive headteacher

FORT Federation

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