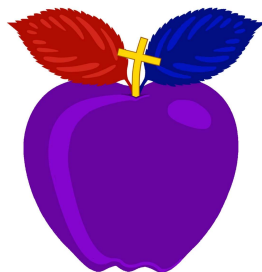


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Head of School: Mrs Vicky Morris



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The FORT Federation

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

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Penny Hammett

5th March 2021

Hello everyone,

I am so excited today. Everything is ready for next Monday and we just can't wait to welcome the children back. I know the teachers and school are buzzing as we approach the weekend.

I would like to thank you so much for all your endless work in supporting your child at home. It has been such a strange time and we know you have had the hardest time juggling everything over the last few months. We are so looking forward to building on the hard work you have all put in. I am sure that while the children are looking forward to coming back, they may also be feeling quite anxious about it. I would like to reassure you that we are expecting for them to feel this way. They have experienced so much change over the last 12 months, it is been very unsettling and quite exhausting. We will need a period of resettling, reassurance and recovery. We won't be rushing into intense learning. Every child has had a different experience and we need to bring our classes back together and remind ourselves of our school and how we work and play together.

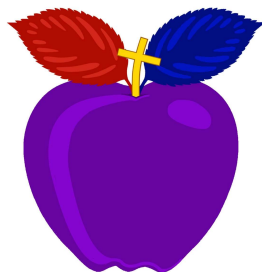
Children will be worrying about what they have and haven't done during lockdown. Please let them know we appreciate each has done their best. We will be spending the next few weeks till Easter re-establishing our routines and learning behaviours; and fully understanding if the children have any gaps in their learning. Our Curriculum will be back in full swing from the summer term. We will return to the creative curriculum through our topics after the Easter holiday.

Another issue that may worry the children this weekend is around their school uniform. While we are keen to see everyone return in uniform, we completely understand that children keep growing through lockdown and there may be items of uniform that no longer fit. I know as a mum that my son needs new shoes but obviously the shops aren't open till Easter. Please don't worry, reassure your child that we are more interested in their return to school, and we can all sort the uniform hopefully by the end of the Easter holidays.

PING!!!

I hope you have signed up to our new communication App. I wanted to thank my administration team led by Mrs Denning. They have worked incredibly hard to get Ping launched before your return next week. We believe it will make your lives simpler. All your communication from school will be in one place and you will be able to retrieve it whenever you need it. If you experience any issues, please let us know as we can feedback directly to company and they are very quick to put things right for us.

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Finally, thank you for your patience and support these last few months, I am feeling more confident than ever before that we are finally moving forward. Our teachers will continue to self-test twice a week. We will diligently keep up our strict cleaning and hygiene protocols. Unfortunately, the bubbles need to remain in place for the meantime, but our children will be able to return to their classes and their friends and get back to what we all love - the Summer term.

Please don't forget that we are still living with strict social distancing rules at home, children aren't able to play after school together or visit each other homes, or share car lifts until the rules are eased over the next few months. We must all work hard to keep ourselves safe, so that we never have to go back to a lockdown again. This was always going to be the hardest part because we are all fed up with COVID and we miss each other but hang in and hopefully our summer will be so much better for us all.

I will keep my COVID hotline (07498 645 336) on so please let me know if anyone in your family displays any of the three symptoms as they still need to get tested. I still need to record all tests and I still need to track and trace any possible transmission of the virus. I need to know both negative and positive results.

So finally, I wish you all a happy weekend and I can't wait to see you all on Monday.

with regards,

Mrs Hammett