



DEBDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 17 April, 2020

Dear Parents,

We hope that you and your families have had a safe and restful Easter.

As you will no doubt have already heard, the government has extended the current lockdown for at least the next three weeks. This is still extended to schools, and so unfortunately the school will not be open in its usual form for the start of the summer term. We will continue to update you as and when the situation progresses.

It was lovely to speak to most of you (and even some of the children) by telephone a week last Monday. It was really nice to hear how all of the children were getting on, and to receive some feedback about their home learning. All of this information has been communicated back to the teachers, who I know have spent a good deal of their holidays looking at ways they can enhance this provision even further. Their class letters, regarding provision for the first week or two of this term, will be emailed to you before Monday (most likely today).

If I did not manage to get through to you, please do not worry! You can contact us at any time via the school admin email address, or wait until the next round of calls, which I am hoping to make in at some point in the week beginning 27th April.

One thing that we know it is really difficult to replicate at home is children's writing. We cannot simply send an answer booklet as we can with other subjects, and it is sometimes difficult to know what to look for. It is also quite tricky to think up imaginative writing topics that are relevant to the children's needs and interests. Thankfully, our teachers have had the lovely idea of the children completing a diary whilst they are away from school. Not only will these help to keep children enthused and well-practiced in their writing, but they will also provide a memoir of this unusual time in their lives. Exactly what they may look like for each age-group has been outlined by our teachers in a separate help sheet that has been attached to this newsletter. We hope to present some of our favourite entries on our website/media pages, and also use them to create a vibrant display for the children when they return to school. We look forward to seeing them.

To facilitate the children's diary writing (and indeed other areas of their home learning), Mr Brown and myself will be creating physical resource packs for the children on Monday, which will include exercise books, pencils and other equipment. These can be collected from a plastic box on the front doorstep of the school from Monday lunchtime. For children living at Carver Barracks, these resources will be left with the liaison officer.

One final reminder – please do ensure that your child logs on to our SeeSaw (KS1 and KS2) or Tapestry (Reception) provision. It is the best way for them to interact with their teachers and classmates, and share what they have been up to. There has been some really positive feedback from all of the families who have been utilising this medium.

I hope that you all have a pleasant weekend. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards

Matt Hawley

Head of School