



Cliff View Road
Camborne
Cornwall
TR14 8PG
D.f.E. No 2241

Mrs N Finn
Headteacher
Tel: 01209 712313
E-mail: head@rosemellin.cornwall.sch.uk

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Dear Parents

As we are not currently writing a newsletter each week, I thought I would write a weekly update instead to keep you all in the loop, or as far as I can, with the ever changing world that we are fast growing accustomed to.

We still ask that you use school only for when you need to work and, if a child has been allocated a place, it is fine to only use it for the days you need. Please make the teacher/teaching assistant aware each week of your intention. You will then not be chased by a call from the office if your child is not in for the day.

We really appreciate the support you are giving to the school by only using school when absolutely necessary. There has been much press throughout the week emphasising why schools are closed: to suppress the virus, bring down rates of community transmission and reduce the pressure on the NHS. By doing what we are asked to, we are all playing our small part in making this happen. Thank you.

The school community has, once again, been organised around minimising contact for both children and staff, in order to create as safe an environment as possible. We have teachers, and some teaching assistants, who are working off site to support our home learning offer to you and we have teachers and teaching assistants who are working on site to teach those children who are attending school. This is no mean feat but I have been blown away by the willingness of the staff to do whatever is asked in order to best meet the needs of your children.

Staff are offering remote sessions where appropriate and support/challenge is being offered across the school in a variety of ways. Please, if you need our help, we have all staff, including the pastoral team, the SEND team and office staff, who will do whatever they can. Please don't feel any question is too small. We are here for you.

As you know, we continue to use Class Dojo as our on-line learning offer and are delighted that 100% of parents are signed up. Please make sure you are checking Class Dojo regularly and, if you have changed your email address, let us know as soon as possible. We are aware that use of a digital device may be difficult for some families but please speak with the class teacher to let them know your individual circumstance, and why home learning may be proving difficult. We can help. However, we know that it is not the digital device that makes good learning happen. It is the quality of the curriculum offer, how clear the learning task is and quality feedback that makes the difference.

We think it is reasonable for at least one piece of completed work –related to the learning set by the teacher i.e Maths, English or another subject-to be uploaded to Class Dojo each day. Every piece



of work will be looked at and the teacher/teaching assistant will comment as necessary. The feedback given may help your child to do things a little bit differently the next time they tackle similar learning.

We are directing the learning day at home to focus on Maths and English in the morning, and another subject area in the afternoon. It is important that your child reads every day and our expectation remains the same i.e at least 5 reads weekly (what a perfect time to get lost in a book.) If you need support in providing your children with books to read, or are unsure of what books to read that are appropriate for their age, let the class teacher know, they can help.

In order to keep happy, healthy and well it is really important that you do things that contribute to positive well-being and good mental health. Remember to...

- eat regular, healthy meals
- have enough sleep
- take exercise and enjoy fresh air (within the rules, of course)
- be calm and make time to relax/be mindful
- make time to play/enjoy some leisure time

I really hope you are all looking after yourselves: keep safe, stay at home as much as possible and follow the rules. Know that we miss your children and you but, in the meantime, you know where we are should you need us.

Yours sincerely

N. Finn

Nicola Finn
Headteacher

