



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 5. We hope you had a restful Easter break and enjoyed plenty of fresh air and sunshine.

Staff have all been busy learning how to use the learning platform and have uploaded plenty of work already for this term, based on our new topics. We hope you have managed to log on ok and are managing to navigate the new system. Thank you for your patience with the early teething problems- we are all learning together and staff have further training early next week where we can ask plenty of questions and hopefully iron out some of the niggles.



Thank you so much for all the fantastic work you have been doing at home and sharing with staff. There is so much positive learning going on, in many different forms. People seem to be finding out what works for them and developing their own routines. There will always be good days and bad days so please remember you are doing the best you can and there are no right answers. We are all in this together and making our way through in a way that works for us. Please be reassured that no one is behind or ahead, right now your children are exactly where they need to be, doing what works for them. We would encourage you to set out a routine each day so children and parents know

what the day looks like- it is also important to have a structure to separate the week days and weekends, so they days feel different.

We understand that children are using technology more often than normal, to support learning and to interact with friends and family during these tricky times. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of checking that parent controls and security settings for children's devices. We would also like to remind you to use the start of term to check in with children around keeping safe online and to monitor the apps and social media they may be accessing. It is still important to be aware of the age limits for the different apps and to take heed of these guidelines due to the content children may be exposed to. The CEOP team have produced some excellent home learning packs for children of different age ranges around staying safe online. These packs can be found using the link below.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

For children to be ready and able to learn, they need to be in a positive and calm headspace. Now, more than ever, their mental health is paramount to their receptiveness to school based tasks. We are uploading some age related Thrive activities each week, to provide some ideas to carry out with children, in order to create and connect together. These are fun for everyone to help support well-being and provide activities to enjoy throughout the week as an escape. These can currently be found on the Thrive link on the website from page. They are not yet on the learning platform.

The Hub

Children attending the Hub has started to settle back into the new term and it has been lovely to have such gorgeous weather. It has been positive for staff and children across the schools to get to know each other so that we can continue to support one another in the future. We have been commended by ESCC for this and there was a short article, which included us just before Easter in The Sussex Express.

E Schools

We have enabled the children to message each other on the e schools learning platform they can watch the video link here of how to do it. <https://youtu.be/PjXEhDIm3h8>.

It is very important to make sure they use it responsibly so please do talk to them about the fact that it can be available as long as people use it appropriately for positive reasons, thank you. Any mis use of it will mean they or their whole class may be locked out of it.

We have also put on a register so that we can monitor who uses it. This is not something for you to worry about it is only so that we can see who is getting access. The register is from 8:30 a.m to 12 noon in the morning and 12:01 -3p.m at Laughton and 3:15p.m at Firle. We do not expect you to register for both, we know that access to IT at home can be difficult so wanted to give the option of going on a.m or p.m. If you are using it outside of these times please don't worry that there may not be a register for those times.

Zoom

Some staff have been trialling Zoom meet ups with classes. We will be using this a bit more over the term and are just making sure we have all the correct privacy settings in place to make it work safely. You will find out from your child's class teacher when their Zoom meeting/ lesson might be. Staff are working very hard to get to grips with new IT skills so please bear with us whilst we try to make it work effectively for everyone.

Support

These are challenging times for everyone and we want to support you as best we can. If you have any difficulties emotionally, financially or need advice regarding your child or situation please do contact us. You are not alone and we have already supported families with food, resources, IT, behaviour advice e.t.c.

Our amazing Friends of Firle and LSA are also there to help.



The Oak Tree
Federation

Music Assembly

Dan is continuing to run his Friday music at 10a.m for everyone, so please do log on to see a friendly face and test those vocal chords via

<https://m.facebook.com/harmonessencechoirsandvoices/>

We would like to thank you all for your continued messages of support. The staff at Firle were very touched by the children's thank you video. It really means a lot to all the staff to hear from the children and to know they are safe and well. We are all missing being in school and hope to see you back as soon as it is safe to do so.

Thank you,

Mrs West and Mrs Brown



5-a-day for
positive mental
health

1. Connect

2. Be Active

3. Be Aware

4. Get involved

5. Give



©theadtroni, 2012