



Fleet Primary School

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Parent / Carer update - 9th February

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Dear parent and carers,

I hope you are all well. As we approach the end of what has been a very difficult half term for us all we are acutely aware and very proud of the effort that the children and you have put into the last 6 weeks since the announcement that school would not be opening to the majority of pupils following the Christmas break.

The teachers, once again, found themselves having to move to a remote learning model while parents/carers/brothers/sisters/aunts/uncles/grandparents all had to take on the role of teacher to support our children in their learning. The context of each and every one of our families is different and we hope you feel that we have done all we can to adapt and support you and your child so that they can continue to learn and develop even if they can't be in school.

We're recognise the fact that moving to online learning requires a lot of screen time. Whether that be to retrieve work, complete work, communicate via Seesaw with your class teacher, read a book on Bug Club, practice times tables on Rock Stars, watch a video or join a class zoom session. By its very nature home learning requires a certain amount of time to be spent on screens. We have tried to emphasise that tasks don't need to be typed or done directly onto screen, and designed specific tasks to be done offline, we want the children to take breaks from the screen but know this is tough. Especially when children have limited options in terms of outdoor or leisure activities, they are often spending their free time on screen too – playing games, communicating with friends, doing virtual clubs and many other valuable online activities. This can mean that in some cases children can be online for most of their day.

Last week was 'Children's Mental Health Week' and teachers developed a number of activities across the school to reflect this. As a follow on to this, and thinking about the amount of time children have had to spend on screens during this period, on Friday we will be having a 'Digital Detox Day'. The idea is that the teachers will plan a grid of activities that are designed to be done 'offline'. In other words, no need to be on a screen and instead interacting in the 'real' world and engaging with 'real' objects. From taking note of their immediate local area in their house and close around, painting/drawing, playing a game with a family member, cooking/baking; there will be a number of activities to choose from. Teachers will give a number of ideas on the grid from which the children pick a certain number to complete through the day. We do not expect them to go online to share any of these on the day – simply take some photos which they can upload to Seesaw/email in to their teachers when home school resumes after half term.

Teachers in Y1-Y6 will post the 'Digital Detox Day Choice Grid' to Seesaw from today so that you and the children can see it ahead of Friday in case you might want to plan in any of the activities that might need some support or special resources (cooking for example). I have also attached a copy with this letter for ease of access. Reception and Nursery, your grids will be up on your home learning web page from end of today.

Teachers introduced the usual half term home learning projects recently to the year groups that do them. These are fantastic opportunities for the children to get creative and showcase all they have learned in their topics, as well as do some independent research into areas of the topic they may have found particularly interesting. These projects are due to be completed and submitted – through photograph/video etc. – by the 1st March. This gives a 3 week period for the children to complete. Wwe are always impressed with the creativity the children show during these projects but recognise that there may be problems with resource access during lockdown. If your child has an idea of something they want to do

but you lack the resources please let us know so we can help if we can. Teachers will be building time into their zoom sessions for the children to share their projects at the end.

I wanted to let you know that this Thursday, 11th between 11am-12pm most staff are involved in some Camden wide training. For this reason there may be a delay on Thursday in responding to any questions or work and no calls made during this time while staff are in the training.

I know many of you have questions about when school will be able to open again for face to face lessons for all children. At present all we know is what has been widely advertised in the press that schools will remain closed until at least the 8th March. What we do know is that cases and hospitalisations due to Covid-19 are falling (the most recent data I was presented with last week by Public Health was that Camden had the lowest rate in the whole of London) although still relatively high to what they were when school returned in September. The Prime Minister has stated that in terms of the announcement as to when schools will return he will give us at least two weeks' notice. That means we expect there to be an announcement around any proposed return from the 8th March to be announced by the 22nd February – this is the week after the upcoming half term break. My fingers are crossed it will be positive news and that if not announcing a return from then that we will have a clearer idea of when and under what, if any, restrictions we will return.

I can't thank you enough for your continued support throughout this period. In such trying circumstances we know from our conversations and from the work coming in that everyone is doing the very best they can.

I look forward to seeing the activities that the children get up to during their Digital Detox Day this Friday and hope you, and they, can enjoy a rest and relaxation over the half term. We look forward to seeing the children back on their virtual Zoom sessions and hearing about their half terms on February 22nd.

Wishing you our very best wishes,



Don M^cGibbon - Head Teacher