



Fleet Primary School

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Easter Holiday Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of week two of school closure I am writing to send my best wishes and hope that you and your children have found a routine that works for the whole family. With what was the Easter break approaching, I know some households will be wanting the timetables that have been established to continue, while others are looking forward to the rest.

Both of these options are fine. The teachers have been working hard this week finding different ideas and activities that we will be putting on their class home learning pages of the website. These are project based or creative activities, for you to refer to. They are not compulsory and are only there as an option to support your home routines. These resources will cover the two weeks of what would have been the Easter Holidays.

Like other Camden schools we have remained open in a limited, childcare capacity for the children of critical workers in line with the government guidance. The teachers have volunteered to come in for a day each over the Easter period to ensure this can continue. However, I also think it is important that they are able to take a break to take stock and spend time with their family and loved ones if they are able and take a step back from the emails, lesson planning, and phone calls and video meetings with me. It is for this reason I have asked them not to set the weekly tasks over Easter, as we have been doing up to now, but instead provide these project ideas and suggestions, and then be able to take some time for themselves. I hope you understand this decision and will support it. They will still give every child a phone call each week just to say hello and hear their news.

We are experiencing an unprecedented emergency situation that is adversely impacting on the whole world so it is very important that we all have a sense of perspective regarding any home learning. As I have tried to emphasise in my previous communications, please try not to become overwhelmed by the work that has been set or feel under pressure that your child has to complete everything that has been provided by their class teacher. What you are now providing at home does not amount to home schooling and we do not expect you to fulfil the roles of class teachers. Your child is simply engaged in 'distance learning' and the hope is that they do the activities provided as it keeps them busy and provides them and you with a daily structure.

There is nothing to feel guilty about if your child does not want to engage with anything set by their teacher. You have the choice to provide your child with other learning-based activities at home (we have shared links on our website) which will be valuable learning too. We are also mindful that many of you may be working from home and have more than one child, so will have your hands full – I for one can attest to the problems this can bring!

What is the school's plan for distance learning?

- **Phase 1** - these final 2 weeks of Spring Term we have been trying to establish 'distance learning' activities to help families establish routines for coexisting at home and balancing work, school and family life. To ensure that teachers remain connected with their children they will call and email while finding their own way in this new way of working.

- **Phase 2** – the Easter Holiday Period – We want to provide things for you to do **if you wish**. We have a range of art, website links, sport and activities from your teachers; your child may also have a project set or activities left from the previous weeks. This is to give you the choice, to help with the routine of the day, **if it is needed**.
- **Phase 3** – the summer term – As we move forward into unknown territory as a staff team I will be discussing the next phase of distance learning with teachers and a plan will be put in place to enable staff to juggle their own home lives and provide appropriate, manageable distance learning.

Please rest assured, you are doing enough, so please do not let any lack of work or limited focus from your child give you cause for concern. Fundamentally, you are supporting your child through the most challenging of times. It is therefore hugely important that you also look after yourselves and your own health and mental wellbeing.

We do not currently know when school will be open again and when life for us all will get back to normal. Once that day comes, we will ensure that learning throughout the school gets back on track to the way we want it to be and that your child can once again be back at school, learning with their friends, and your life can go back to normal.

Do continue to take care of yourselves and each other. Don't forget the office can still be contacted via email over the Easter Holidays for any urgent issues.

With best wishes for you and your loved ones,



Don McGibbon
Head Teacher