



Head to Home

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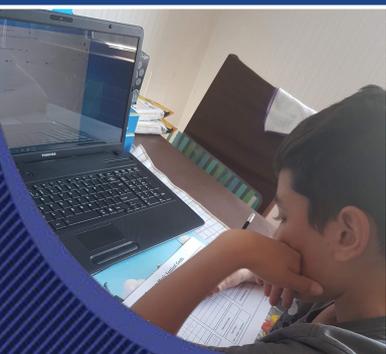
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Friendship

2019-2020 Number 27 | Friday 24th April 2020

With Jesus as our guide,
we will inspire a passion
for learning, high
aspirations and respect for
all.



Today sees the end of 5 weeks of school being closed to the majority of our children. It has been fabulous over the last few days talking to so many parents and children over the phone as I check in with you all. The lovely comments regarding the regular contact with the teachers and the fabulous job you are all doing at home with your children is just brilliant. If you have yet to speak to me you will over the coming days get a phone call from me so please look out for that.

Anything you are doing with your children share with us, it is lovely seeing children cooking, gardening, building, playing with one another and these things are so important. This is a time to spend time together and for children to have the opportunity to do some of those things that we don't usually have time to do. One parent talked to me about how their child had been getting breakfast ready for the family which is something they had wanted to do for a while but with time always a pressure in the morning this had not been able to happen. But now with unlimited time they have been able to do this and this is fabulous. My own son who is 18 finally mowed our lawn yesterday ...the first time that my husband has "allowed" that to happen and although it isn't quite to his standard he has learnt a valuable skill and now considers that a paved garden is in fact a very good option. Please remember you are keeping your children all happy and safe and showing them you love them which is far more important than battling over hours of school work. Daily reading or sharing of books/stories is still the best thing that you can do and an activity that bridges the age gap that many of you are also juggling. My very experienced and highly qualified teachers would not be delivering a maths session to a group of children who might be 6, 9 and 11 years old so please remember that.

Many of you have mentioned the BBC bitesize website that was launched recently this is an excellent resource and breaks learning time down into chunks, helping to give a balance to the day. Some of you have also shared how you have talked to the class teacher about worries or problems you may also be having with your child and this is also brilliant, we may not be with you but we are still here to support you and your children.

Thank you to all of you for the lovely comments regarding the FLRM report sheets that the teachers put together replacing the sessions that were booked to be held before the Easter holidays. I had hoped when I made the decision to cancel FLRM in order to follow social distancing that we were postponing these and would have held them next week, but once it became obvious that wasn't going to happen the mini reports hopefully give you a little insight into how your child is doing at school.

By now all of our families that are in receipt of Pupil Premium have received their supermarket vouchers for £15 per child. I know sadly other families at the moment are finding themselves in circumstances that are very challenging, if you have lost your job and are without an income and are therefore claiming benefits or in the process of accessing benefits, please make an application which is very easy. Use this link to check your eligibility, if you do qualify for this we will be notified when you are and then we can be in contact with you to generate the vouchers we are currently offering which is £15 per week per child to use at all local supermarkets.

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/Pages/pupil-premium.aspx>

During my many telephone calls I have been asked about the well-being of the staff which is so kind of you all to consider us. I thought I would share with you the arrangements that I have put in place to try to safeguard and support our All Saints team. All staff completed an assessment so I could assess the risk to them and their families if they had to come into work or could work from home. The rota which is in place to cover the school being opened everyday only uses the staff on site that are able to come into school without creating a risk to themselves or families. All staff with underlying medical issues, those responsible for elderly parents, those who would have to send their own children to child care facilities are not included. On a daily basis there is one Teacher supported by one Teaching Assistant working with the children, they are supported by one member of the safeguarding/leadership team, a member of the office team and one member of the cleaning team. All of my staff would like to be at school every day, but in line with the government it is important that as many as possible stay at home to work. This team changes daily and as staff member's circumstances change so does the rota. As I am the Designated Safeguarding Lead I am in school at some point every day and am getting quite good at holding meetings via skype and Zoom. We are all able to socially distance ourselves from each other and the school building is only open in a very limited way to reduce the cleaning requirements. What is important for you to all note, is that there is a member of staff available to take any phone calls every morning if you have any worries, questions etc. so please ring the school line if you would like any advice.

Unfortunately some of our staff have had huge things to deal with like some of you. Mr Chambers sadly has had the terrible loss of his mum sadly dying before the lock down and was not at school for the two weeks before we shut, to the majority of children. He and his family had to deal with the situation of a funeral in this challenging time and only three people being able to attend. To add to this already horrendous situation on Tuesday his dad sadly passed away in intensive care from Covid 19. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family and I have been completely lost for words as to the absolute cruel nature that life sometimes brings to people. It is such a terrible time we live in and that is why what you are all doing of keeping your children happy and safe is so important and please keep this up, we must not relax and start to think that this is over unfortunately it is not.

During this period Mrs Rumsey our Nursery Teacher has started her maternity leave and we wish her all the very best. We look forward to hearing about her new arrival in June and I am sure we will have pictures to share with you all.

I receive a daily update from the DFE which provides the latest information direct from the government. There is no indication of when schools will reopen or how this will happen. I hope and pray that it will be before the summer holidays so we can come together as the special All Saints family that we are and in particular say goodbye to our incredible Year 6 children and their families, but only time will tell.

Thank you for the lovely conversations that we have had this week, keep doing what you are all doing, stay safe and enjoy the fabulous weather.