



Florence Melly Community Primary School
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Monday 27th April 2020

Additional Home Learning Packs and Catch Up Phone Calls

Dear parent/carer,

We hope that this letter reaches you and your family safe and well. We also hope that the task of home learning hasn't caused too many tears or tantrums (from the parents that is). When our school closed on Friday 20th March, we decided that we did not want to bombard parents with endless schemes of work or masses of online learning tasks to do while we were closed. We completely understand how difficult the task of home educating is, particularly when many of you will be still be working, away from and at home. We have always felt that keeping our whole school community safe during this unprecedented time is the most important thing!

We have, and will continue to as long as our school is closed, posted regular 'Home Learning Challenges' for our children to enjoy. These are intentionally not hugely academic or curriculum based because we want our parents to use the time (that our school is closed) to build our pupils life skills, to develop relationships and enjoy spending quality time together as a family. These are available on our school website. We have a whole page dedicated to support parents and keeping you updated during the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://florencemelly.org/parents/covid-19-updates/>.

However, we appreciate that some parents may want a little more. We have listened to what you have been saying to us on social media, via email and on the telephone and have agreed to provide additional paper-based work for those who would like it. Our whole staff team are working hard to prepare packs of work, much like those that were distributed when our school first closed. This requires a monumental effort by everyone involved and we would really appreciate your support and patience while we get these prepared. It is our intention to have these ready to collect the week beginning: **Monday 4th May 2020**. A timetable and further information informing parents of how and when to come and collect these will be posted nearer the time. Please check our Twitter feed and website for updates.

For our children in the Early Years, we will not be sending home an additional work pack but a resource pack instead. This is more conducive to the practical approach of the EYFS curriculum.

As you can imagine, we are missing the children immensely! Each class teacher and their teaching assistant will be spending time over the next couple of weeks phoning every single child in our school. Our staff are desperate to catch up with everyone and will be making personal calls to make sure that everyone is safe and well. During this call, we will be asking whether or not you would like another work pack and also collecting a parent email address which will allow us to add you to our Class Dojo system and email notifications and updates out quickly and efficiently.

Further down the line, should our school remain closed, we plan on holding Zoom 'Virtual Chats' with the children too. How very exciting! We cannot do this without a valid email address though.

In accordance with General Data Protection Regulations, the email addresses you provide will not be shared with anyone else.

Additionally, we are asking our staff to liaise with parents over Class Dojo. We see this as a great way to effectively communicate. A large number of parents are already signed up to this service and we encourage those who are not yet signed up to do so. Again, we need a valid email address to do this! Our staff will be logging into Class Dojo for a short amount of time each day to respond to any questions or concerns you may have - but will not be spending too much time doing this and they may not respond straightaway. It is just another great way of communicating as a school community.

We certainly hope that these measures help and support you and your children whilst you are at home. We appreciate that what we have put in place will not suit everyone but we are trying our very best during this difficult time.

Lastly, we would like to thank you - our parents and carers - for your unwavering support. We have absolutely loved seeing your posts on our Twitter feed while our school has been closed. It has made this whole lockdown bearable.

Take care and stay safe.

The Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body.



IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, YOU CAN DO IT!