



FARNBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Families,

I hope you all managed to enjoy the Easter break together. As this lockdown has increased in time, it has affected us all in very different ways. Most of us are getting more and more creative with the ways we entertain our children and spend our free time. Some of us are trying out strange new hobbies that we may or may not continue with when this is all over! Lots of us have become far more tech savvy using Zoom and other apps to keep in contact with our loved ones. A few of us might even be thinking that 'work meetings' are actually much better conducted virtually. Some of us find ourselves where we never thought we would be; agreeing with Piers Morgan!! Our days are now defined, not by whether we make the 8:47am train to attend our 9:30am meeting, or running as fast as we can to make the 5:47pm train to pick up our children by 6pm; but defined by Joe Wicks at 9am, daily briefing at 5pm and Thursday 'clapping' at 8pm for our NHS and key worker heroes. It is indeed a funny time!

Whilst we have to look for the positives during this time, we cannot underestimate that this is also a very challenging, lonely, stressful, worrying and devastating period for many of us as well. As time goes on, more and more people are beginning to experience redundancies, bereavement, huge financial worries and mental health concerns. Some children are becoming sadder, more anxious and more confused with the life we are currently living. There is so much around us right now that is heart breaking to see and incomprehensible as it was only 6 weeks ago when life was 'normal'

When we return to school, many of our lives will be so very different and we will need to work together as a community to support those who are having a very difficult time. This is where I know we will pull together to support those among us that are suffering at this time.

At present, we do not have a return date, we are receiving updates from the government at the same time as all of you, therefore, we are looking at how we communicate more effectively with the children regarding their school work. We know there are many platforms to use, which we are currently investigating. Due to safeguarding of the children and staff, some of these platforms are unfortunately not suitable. Please try and send us your children's work daily so we can mark it and the children can have feedback from their teachers. We are also in the process of calling each family to see how you all are. Please be patient with us, as this may take a couple of weeks.

Thank you so much for the many kind and thoughtful messages you have been sending in to us. We will continue to do our best to ensure the children still know we are here for them; but just in a different way.

Whilst we are all working hard to ensure that your children are able to extend their learning, please do remember that you are not able to replace a school system. Do not put pressure on yourselves to be an amazing teacher! The most important thing in these times is that your children are happy, safe and well.

In the meantime, wishing you all good health.

Love and best wishes,

Miss James and the Farnborough Team



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