

*Small school, big heart,
aiming high together*



Sutton News

24th April 2020

Headteacher's Message

Here we are at the end of a glorious week of weather, which seems to make this situation much easier to cope with when the sun is shining. It has certainly made the week at school more pleasant for the staff and children, who have enjoyed playing together, building dens, and creating obstacle courses. We are trying our very best to fit in academic learning during the day, but we are making plenty of time for the children to play and indulge in activities that they may not necessarily have time to do during a normal school week. I hope this is also the case at home. Huge thanks to all the staff who are making the children's time in school as normal and enjoyable as possible.

Of course, we would like the children to be completing some schoolwork each day, but I am also aware of the pressures on parents during this time, which can make it difficult to support your children's learning. I am writing this to you in between helping George with GCSE Science and designing a pencil case with Fred!

Please do not feel the children have to complete masses of work each day - as I have said before, we will all return to school and we will carry on where we left off in March. The truth is, what works for you and your family during this time is just fine. Schools and families are approaching learning at home in different ways and there is no right or wrong way - we are all just trying our best in the most unusual of situations.

I'd like to say a big thank you to the staff working from home who are keeping an eye on Google Classroom. Please remember, the children can contact them at any point during the week from 9.00am - 3.30pm (through Google Classroom) and they will get a response that day from somebody - even if it is just to say hello.

Throughout this crisis, we have tried to anticipate what will happen next to prepare and best support our children and families. The media is unhelpful with suggesting random dates when schools may or may not reopen to all children; this is unsettling for us all. As a school, we are already thinking about September, whether we are back before then or not. We are sharing ideas about transition for our new starters in September, as it is likely we need to think about this more creatively if we are not physically in school. We are also thinking about our current Reception children, who have missed a large chunk of their first year in school just when they were just starting to read and become confident with their numbers. There are lots of things to consider for September, but please be assured that we will always put the best interests of the children first and look after our staff.

Finally, thank you for all the lovely comments about the video we sent out for the children. We have had over 2,000 views on Facebook (although admittedly that is probably some of my family repeat watching!). It is lovely to feel that connection with you all, and it makes it even more apparent that we are a very special school community. I do hope the children liked the postcards we sent home for them this week. Please encourage them to send in photos of any activities they are doing at home - we'd love to see what they are up to.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend - stay safe and lots of love.