



Hawthorn Community Primary School



Weekly Newsletter 27/03/20



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So much of life as we know it has changed over the last week, but I hope that you are all adapting to these changes and staying safe. Although school has been closed to all but a few children whose parents are key workers, the staff have all been working hard. I hope that you have managed to sign in to your child's class dojo using the details that were sent home with your child at the end of last week, as this is a good opportunity to keep in touch with your child's teacher and to hear suggestions about the sorts of things that you could be doing with your child each day. The teachers are all trying to respond to parent's individual queries as well as leaving a daily message for the children so we hope that they don't feel as though they have been abandoned by school completely!

We have had a few queries from parents who have found it difficult to keep up with the work that has been sent out by the school for the children to do at home; particularly if they are trying to keep up with their own working from home. Please don't panic and feel that you have to do everything that we are suggesting! I have a skype meeting with the headteachers from the other Pathfinder Schools this evening, and one of the things we will be discussing is home learning so that we can develop a consistent approach across all of the schools in the academy chain. Please be reassured that our intention is not to overload either the children or you as parents and the expectation is not that you do everything that we have set each day; just choose from the items that your child needs or has shown a particular interest in.

The children who have been in school with us this week have spent a short amount of time each day working through some of the activities from the same home learning packs that your child has and have also had opportunities for some on-line learning, but we have certainly not been working them for the entire time. They have also joined in with the daily on-line p.e. session with Joe Wickes; have spent a lot of time outside making the most of the glorious weather that we have had; have drawn and written some postcards for the residents of St Anne's care home so that they know that they haven't been forgotten during this time when they are unable to receive any visitors; and have completed a variety of creative activities including making rainbows, crafting bouquets of paper flowers, using clay and even some cooking. The children have also completed some simple science activities based around our weekly theme of rainbows.

The wealth of materials to support the children's learning at home during the time that the school will be closed is overwhelming and I appreciate that you may not know where to start. Our school website has suggestions of what you could use on the home learning page and we will be updating this regularly to provide you with new suggestions, so that if something doesn't work for your child, or they become bored, there should always be something new for them to try.

However, the important thing is to make sure that your child is not being overloaded with work – they also need regular opportunities to get some fresh air, talk with their friends on-line or on the phone, and be children. Please do not insist that they keep on working into the evening because they haven't completed as much as you think they should have done!

Finally for this week, I would like to thank you for all of the kind messages of support that we have received, they are very much appreciated.