



Executive Headteacher: Mrs C Wilson M.A (ED)
Associate Headteacher: Mrs L Wood
Fir Tree Lane, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2RA
Tel: 01635 42129 Fax: 01635 230484
Email: office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org

Monday 20th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you all had a lovely Easter break and there was lots of chocolate to go around. The lovely weather certainly helped to soften the current situation which we all continue to adapt to.

All around the country, schools and their communities spent the two weeks prior to the holidays learning to work remotely. Thank you to all of you, our families did a brilliant job of trying to keep order and structure, whilst inspiring and motivating children, and in many cases worrying about finances, older relatives and carrying on working themselves. All our staff with young / school age families understand exactly how hard this is.

So, we have learned much, and have had the Easter break to reflect; we have explored the national picture and now, we adapt alongside Thursday's news of an extended lockdown for at least another 3 weeks. Moving on from the Easter holiday takes us into what we are recognising as the "Adjustment phase" – phase 2.

On Friday Home Learning for the week was uploaded on to the school website for you to access. You all do an amazing job and class teachers will be getting in contact with you from this week to check in and help with advice and learning. In addition to this here is some additional advice that may help, **be realistic about what you can do**. You're not expected to become teachers and your children aren't expected to learn as they do in school. Simply providing your children with some structure at home will help them to adapt. Use the tips below to help you make this work for your household (and please let us know if things are difficult) Experiment in this first week, then take stock. What's working and what isn't?

- Ask your children, involve them too
- Share the load if there are other adults at home.
- Split the day into 2-3 hour slots and take turns so you can do your own work
- Take care of your own health and wellbeing (remember the advice on airplanes to put your own oxygen mask on before helping others)
- This will be new for your entire household, so give it time to settle.
- Create and stick to a routine if you can. This is what children are used to. For example, eat breakfast at the same time and make sure they're dressed before starting the 'school' day – avoid staying in pyjamas!
- Involve your children in setting the timetable where possible, perhaps look at the class one on the website and use as a starting point. It's a great opportunity for them to manage their own time better and it'll give them ownership
- Check in with your children and try to keep to the timetable, but be flexible. If a task/activity is going well or they want more time, let it extend where possible
- If you have more than 1 child at home, consider combining their timetables. For example, they might exercise and do maths together – see what works for your household
- Designate a working space if possible, and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, to separate school life and home life

Please note that whilst we have put together a structure for the timetable day, we understand that in your own family you may have found or be working to find a routine that works best for your own circumstances and so you may wish to run the day in a different order to suit you e.g. doing PE / fitness at a time to suit the whole family.

What is clear is that no family should feel additional pressure within their household to keep up with “the curriculum”. What is more important is that your children enjoying leading their learning with the work we are setting, that they keep their all-important learning skills in use every day, that they read daily, and that they keep to regular learning routines.

When schools do open again, we will then move into what we call the “Recovery phase” – phase 3. During this time we will be re-building routines and habits, before we then move on to re-starting the curriculum. At that point, we will have plans in place to ensure that all children are appropriately supported, stretched or challenged in picking up from where we left off on March 20th.

So with that in mind let’s kick off the week how we would always do so, with Headteacher’s school assembly. As mentioned last term, its important and valuable to do this going forward at home. Assemblies are normally 30 minutes and focus on a theme and we have lots of discussion, this may be a nice way to start your Monday or to use when your children need a break from learning.

This week’s assembly is focused on:



Using this link <http://www.vimeo.com/channels/picturenews> watch this week's useful video and talk about the different cities and how different we think they would have looked before the lockdown period.

New figures revealed on the 7th April by the Department of Transport show that only a very small proportion of people in the UK are still travelling during the lockdown period that the government have imposed during the COVID-19 outbreak. Visits to shops, museums and cafes in the UK have fallen by 85% since the coronavirus outbreak, according to data shared by Google. The government has supported Google in using data in this way.

Main question: Do we think people will travel less in the future?

Listen, think, share Look at this week's poster and talk about how much we usually travel in a typical week:

- How many journeys do we make, where do we go?
- What are we doing in replacement of these trips?

Talk about the changes we've made:

- What are some of the things we miss?
- What are the things we have liked?
- Talk about how or if we are communicating with people outside of our home, have we used technology to speak with our friends or family?

 **Picture News**

Assembly Resource

Read some of the examples of things that have changed during the lockdown period. Do you think any of these changes will become the usual way we do things in future?

How we 'meet' with friends and family using video calls and apps





At home, virtual exercise classes

Roads and railways have been much quieter as people have been working from home and not travelling where possible



Working and completing schoolwork at home



- Talk about if there are adults in our homes and families who have been working from home. Discuss the jobs that they do.
- Explain that some people have jobs where they can work on computers and have virtual meetings where they can see each other and discuss things.
- Explain that this has meant lots of people have been travelling less.
- Make a list of some of the changes that we have made during this time. E.g. video call doctors appointments, online shopping, school lessons at home.

Reflection

During this period of lockdown, we have all had to make huge changes to our everyday lives to help to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We have changed how we shop, communicate and spend our time. Some of these changes may remain; we have had a period of time to reflect on our daily routines.



Don't forget that Fir Tree has been given an amazing opportunity for pupils and parents to have fun learning PE at home together using 'jasmine active'. Jasmine active is the platform pupils use within their PE lessons at school where they have the ability to learn and also get the ability to lead within the lessons.

For parents to access this platform you will need to go to home.jasmineactive.com

- **Username:** parent@firtreepri-1.com
- **Password:** firtreepri

When logged on to the website you will see lots of different activities that can be done at home using everyday objects for all ages. You will also see a 14-day plan that you are able to follow. They will be updating it weekly so there will be plenty of activities and games for you all to do!

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email Mr Hosier at jhosier@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org

I am delighted to share with you that Mohamad in Year 2 and Vivien in Year 3 came 2nd and 3rd in the REAL PE@ Home Competition set just before Easter, which is fantastic to hear, they have won some great prizes – congratulations to them both. Why not look at this week's competition set by REAL PE on Twitter and Facebook and try their new challenge??



Also before Easter we launched a House Battle on Times Table Rock Stars, we are so impressed by home may children took part!!! I can reveal the results below:

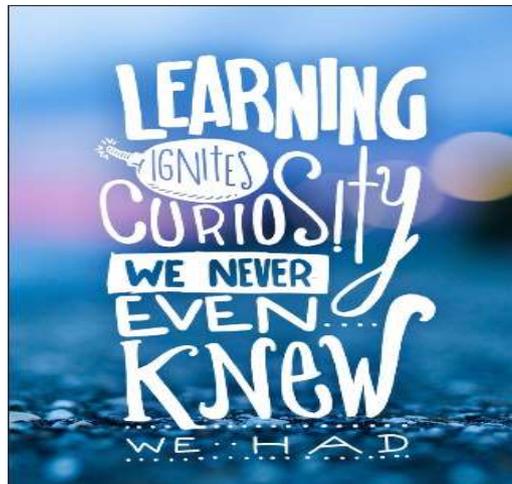
⚔ Battles			
	Home		Away
<input type="checkbox"/>	🏆 Berkeley	6,169	6,039 Donnington
<input type="checkbox"/>	Highclere	12,703	17,058 🏆 Windsor

A special mention to the top 3 players in each house:

Berkeley	Donnington	Highclere	Windsor
Tushar Kamra – 3,336 pts	Holly Johnston – 1,224 pts	Ace Sprules – 5, 208 pts	Rocky Golby – 10, 119 pts
Lakshita Gulati – 1,163 pts	Maisie Frankum – 1,060 pts	Kai Sprules – 3,319 pts	Teejas Heejebu – 2,605 pts
Sam Kamra – 776 pts	Lily Johnson – 910 pts	Aisha Adams – 1,837 pts	Marouwane Diallo – 970 pts

A huge well done to everyone for taking part! We will be issuing House Points for the winning House - Windsor and to the top 3 pupils above. Keep an eye out for the next battle, where there will also be points for the 'most improved'! I will announce the winner of the second battle on Friday.

On a final note, my thought for the week to share with you all and one that you can certainly put into practice this week.



So in the meantime, we look forward to Term 5 ahead. Your feedback about what is and isn't working is important to us, as if you don't tell us, we are unable to adapt and support you as families. A huge thank you for all that you do do, wishing you a wonderful week ahead and I look forward to sharing with you the completed challenges and successes of the past few weeks on Friday.

Stay safe and healthy!

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Wood
Associate Headteacher



FOR PARENTS

A SPECIAL COVID MESSAGE

When your child is ill or injured it is very difficult to decide if/when to call your child's GP, NHS 111 or go the Accident and Emergency Department (A&E). During the current situation and while the government is asking everyone to stay at home, it can be confusing to know what to do. Here is some guidance:



FOR ADVICE ON COVID-19 AND CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES/INJURIES VISIT WWW.NHS.UK

Designed by primary and secondary care clinicians from Barts Health & North-East London STP

YOU SHOULD GO TO A&E AND/OR CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY IF

APPEARANCE

- ▶ Pale/mottled/ashen/blue colour
- ▶ Collapsed/unresponsive/loss of consciousness
- ▶ No obvious pulse or heartbeat
- ▶ Severe allergic reaction

BEHAVIOUR

- ▶ Extreme irritability/pain/sleepiness (can be woken but falls asleep immediately)
- ▶ Seizure/jerking movements/fit

BREATHING

- ▶ Sucking in and out between ribs
- ▶ Flaring nostrils
- ▶ Extremely fast breathing
- ▶ Noisy breathing

OTHER

- ▶ Bleeding from an injury, that doesn't stop after 10 minutes of pressure

YOU SHOULD GO TO A&E IF

APPEARANCE

- ▶ Dizziness/feeling faint
- ▶ Rash that does not fade when you press it

BEHAVIOUR

- ▶ Severe constant tummy pain

OTHER

- ▶ Burn
- ▶ Possible broken bone

OTHER

- ▶ Swallowed foreign objects (especially magnets/batteries)
- ▶ Temperature higher than 38°C in a baby younger than three months old
- ▶ Your child has special health care needs and you have a plan that tells you to go to A&E
- ▶ Feels abnormally cold to touch
- ▶ Expressing suicidal/significant selfharm thoughts

YOU SHOULD CALL YOUR GP IF

APPEARANCE

- ▶ Mild/mod allergic reaction (known or suspected)
- ▶ New rash that fades when you press on it

BEHAVIOUR

- ▶ Mild irritability/sleepier than normal
- ▶ Severe tummy pain that comes and goes
- ▶ Vomiting and diarrhoea
- ▶ Not passed urine for more than 12 hours

BREATHING

- ▶ Wheezing/fast breathing

OTHER

- ▶ Temperature >39°C (age 3-12 months)
- ▶ Temperature over 38°C for more than 7 days
- ▶ Accidental overdose of medication or other substances
- ▶ Ear pain for more than 2 days
- ▶ Emotional distress, that can't be reassured

YOU SHOULD CHECK WITH 111 OR YOUR COMMUNITY PHARMACIST IF

APPEARANCE

- ▶ Pink eyes/red eyes

BEHAVIOUR

- ▶ Ear pain for less than 2 days
- ▶ Mild tummy pain that comes and goes

BREATHING

- ▶ Cough
- ▶ Runny nose

OTHER

- ▶ Temperature over 38°C for less than 7 days