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24th March 2020

Dear Parents

Firstly, may I thank everybody who has sent myself and the staff kind messages regarding the school's handling and communication in these unprecedented times. I think we are all taking this situation on a day by day basis which is bound to produce challenges we will collectively overcome!

I intend to e-mail parents and children on a Monday and Friday, giving you updates on school matters, information, good news and maybe a little quiz or too. I will also tweet through the Fir Tree Primary Twitter account when appropriate. Of course the school website will have copies of all letters and announcements.

The Home Learning section of the website is now available for you. You can contact your child's class teacher if you need to. We intend to add new weekly work and activities every Friday and will send you a text when these are accessible to you.

It would also be nice, as we do in a Friday assembly, to celebrate the birthdays amongst the children and staff. Therefore, if your child has a birthday coming up, please let me know if you would like me to share it with the school community in my weekly updates via the office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org email address. I won't add surnames and won't be specific about the day.

Regarding assemblies, I will try to attach every Monday an assembly resource you can share with your child(ren) if you so desire. It may well have a story and theme that might be of interest – please don't feel you have to though.

Other fun resources we have found which you might wish to use are:

1. Nastasha Lamb (also on Facebook) will be teaching basic British Sign Language signs everyday at 1pm.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4L2P771s-sHOP7JIUcQjIA>

2. Joe Wicks youtube workouts. They're going to be live everyday at 09:00am but you can watch them after when they are also uploaded in case you miss it the first time round.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1/playlists>

It would be great to have some photos of the children doing this to share via the my communication with you or on Twitter.

3. Quizzes on continents, countries, capitals, flags, counties etc. You can create your own smaller quizzes – have competitions with friends. Be warned this might be the first quiz for parents, staff and children next week!!

<https://online.seterra.com/>

Any others that we or you find please let me know and I will forward to the school community over the time we are closed.

Finally, please keep in touch with any news that you would like me share with everyone. The aim of these updates is hopefully to keep the spirits high amongst us all in these difficult times. Jokes, book recommendations, poems, pictures etc. produced by the children can be sent to me through the office e-mail address above. I'll do my best to include a few of them on the twice weekly updates. Not to mention any evidence of the Fir Tree Challenge!!!

On behalf of all the staff please say hi to your child(ren) from us, and of course stay safe. I will be in contact with you all again on Friday.

Best Wishes

Mrs L Wood
Associate Headteacher