

Urchfont C. E. Primary School

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Dear Parents and Children

I hope you and your families continue to be well and that you managed to enjoy the bank holiday to some degree. I appreciate that it was not the normal bank holiday for Urchfont with the Scarecrow festival not taking place as usual.

We are now beginning the sixth week of home schooling. As I said last week, the children’s work is now on the virtual learning platform – Google Classroom. Please contact us if you are having difficulty setting this up for your child/ren and we will try to help. I have been reading the daily streams between the teachers and their classes and although we cannot be together physically, I feel the current interaction is keeping everyone’s spirit as high as possible. I urge you, if you haven’t already set your child up, please do so as soon as possible.

Yet again, I would like to thank you for all your hard work home schooling your children. We do appreciate what you are all doing and as I said last week, the amount of work might seem daunting for some, but not enough for others. As you can appreciate, everyone has different expectations and time. Therefore, I repeat, we are just asking that you do what you can and what you feel is appropriate for your child/ren and circumstances. We are still collecting pictures of the children for the next edition of the Redhorn, so if you have a photograph you don’t mind us including on the school page we would be grateful if you could send it to the class email accounts.

It has been brought to my attention that some families would have liked a telephone call from the teachers over the last few weeks. This was discussed at our weekly virtual staff meeting before the Easter break, as staff had also thought it would have been lovely to hear the children’s voices. We know that some schools have managed this. This is because their schools have remained open to key worker children and therefore it has been possible for telephone calls to have been made using the school telephone. As we have not had key worker children currently needing to attend school, this has meant that we have been working from home. Making telephone calls from home using personal telephones or devices would have breached a number of safeguarding protocols for staff and is therefore currently not possible.

 Yesterday, the Prime Minister spoke to us all and explained the next steps in lifting the lockdown. As a school, we have already discussed different ways of keeping the children and staff as safe as possible, as we return to school for some year groups, in the coming weeks. We know that like us, you will have many questions, so we plan to send out our plans on how we will implement our reopening to you later in the week after we have received further guidance from the LA and DFE. We also appreciate that for a variety of reasons, some of you may choose not to send your child even if your child is in Years R, 1 or 6 to school when it is reopened. Together, with our plans, we will

 be sending out a questionnaire to parents of children in these year groups as well as key workers, to gather your thoughts on whether you will send your child back to school in June. As you can appreciate, the number of children we have in school, will influence the plans and interventions we may need to put into place. We will also need to plan on how we work together to continue the education of those that remain at home.

As I have previously said, please contact us if you have any concerns and queries and we will try to help and support you at this very difficult and unprecedented time.

With warmest regards and please keep safe!



 Mrs CE Talbot

Head Teacher