

Oakhurst Community First & Nursery School 'From Little Acorns Mighty Oaks Grow'

3/4/2020

Dear Parents and Carers

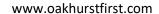
What a strange time we are in! None of us have every experienced anything like this before and all of our emotions are all over the place with the uncertainty we face. But one thing that has been positive during all of this is the strength in the Oakhurst community. The parents and staff are all working so hard and closely together to help the children during this time and keep their learning ticking over. For those of you who are not on the Oakhurst Together Facebook page, please join and you will see lots of lovely ideas being shared and a support network for each other. Thank you to everybody who has shared or emailed learning, we have absolutely loved seeing what you have been doing. Please keep going with this.

We know it can be very difficult for some to manage this around many other different factors going on, and the children may struggle to want to engage and get motivated, but just try to do what you can. Remember everybody is in the same boat and feeling the same emotions as we are only human after all. Please be kind to yourselves and do what works for you and your children. Health and well-being is the most important thing right now. None of us know how long this is going to be for and when we do go back to school, there will inevitably have gaps to fill, but please don't worry about that at this moment in time, we will deal with it when we come to it.

We have arrived at the end of term, and the next two weeks are officially the Easter holidays. The teachers will not be setting formal learning during this period, but will send some suggestions and ideas of things to do. We won't be calling you over the two weeks, but are available, if you wish us to do so. Please email either myself on ann.clark@oakhurstfirst.com or the class email address if you would like us to contact you.

From a safeguarding point of you, I have been informed today, that we do need to be speaking to each child once a week. So from after Easter, during your weekly phone call from the class teacher or teaching assistant we will ask to have a quick chat with the children, just to see how they are. The vast majority of you have been fantastic at keeping in regular contact with us, but there have been a small minority who have not. If we are unable to contact you over a week's period we will have to inform social services, who will carry out a welfare check. Thank you for your understanding with this. As always the children's safety is our priority.

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For those of you in receipt of Pupil Premium Free School Meals we started the hamper scheme with Chartwells this week. However, this will be changing to the government voucher scheme after Easter for which you will receive further information about from the school office. We are aware that many families financial situations are changing rapidly at the moment as we will be sending out regular reminders to check your eligibility for Pupil Premium Free School Meals and if you are eligible the voucher scheme can begin straight away.

Anyway I think that's about all for now. Remember Stay home, Protect the NHS, Save lives.

Have a restful Easter break.

Love and Best Wishes

Ann Clark

Headteacher

