

Dear Parents

I hope this finds you all safe and well. I can't believe we are already into week 6 of school closure!

Thank you for your continued support of your child's learning at home. We are thrilled by the children's engagement and enthusiasm for this new way of working. To try and keep everything in one place of reference for you, there are now additional 'Home Learning' pages added to our school website for the Explorers, Adventurers, Voyagers and Pioneers. Just click on the curriculum tab on the front page of the website and then look for your child's class. On these pages, teachers will share examples of children's work and activity at home along with useful links to resources and summaries of the week's suggested activities. We hope this will be helpful.

However, I know from my own experience and speaking to some of you, that it is not always easy or possible to juggle the many hats we are all wearing at the moment and some days are definitely better than others! So I wanted to reassure you that by providing daily activities for your child to complete, our aim is to ensure that they keep up their essential skills and also have some form of normality and routine in this most abnormal of times. Although we hope this is mostly a positive experience for them and you, we do not wish to add to yours or their stress levels at this time. In no circumstances, do we expect all of the work to be done all of the time. However, we do feel that regular interaction with Google classroom allows children to stay in touch with school friends and on top of their learning. Equally, staff are able maintain vital ongoing contact with them. This will hopefully aid transition back to school when at last this happens.

I am aware that children, like adults, are beginning to ask questions about a time frame for this to be all over. Not knowing the answer to this is proving difficult for everyone. I know there are many resources available at the moment to support both adults' and children's mental health but I wanted to share a couple with you. I apologise if you are already aware of them, but hope they will be useful.

[Coronavirus, a book for children.](#)

[The Book of Hopes](#)

[Good Books for Tough Times](#)

[Wanting to play with friends](#)

[NCC Padlets: Materials and Resources to Support Children and Young People](#)

[Go noodle - exercise and mindfulness breaks](#)

[Cosmic Kids Yoga](#)

Until we are able to welcome everyone back into school, we are greatly reassured that children are with the people that love them the most. We hope you can spend time as family (work permitting) doing some of the things that you enjoy together.

You may be aware that we have asked the children to take part in a shared video that we are producing. This asks us and them to practise gratitude: i.e. to consider what things - however small - they are grateful for today. It's so easy to forget the small stuff when we are in 'survival' mode, so we thought it would be fun and therapeutic to be in praise of the small things that are keeping us all going through hard times! We are all excited to see the results.

We are so looking forward to seeing you all again soon, but in the meantime school remains open for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers and there is a rota of staff who are available every day. If we can do anything to help please contact your child's class teacher via google classroom or Iain Long iain.long@felton.northumberland.sch.uk in the first instance and he or I will be in touch within 24 hours.

Very best wishes

Suzanne Connolly

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