

Dear Parents, Staff and Governors,

Today we have five children in school (2YR, 2 Y1, 1 Y2). Following the prime minister's announcement last night, many key worker parents have decided to keep their children at home. We are teaching the five in one group today, further reducing staff contact with pupils. There are currently nine staff who are healthy and able to be with pupils, but this number reduces every day.

Please do not email school requesting a response to questions or any action unless absolutely necessary. All the information you need is likely to be in the emails provided. Yesterday morning and earlier today, emails were coming into the office at a rate of one every 1.5 minutes. The office staff and I will be happy to receive and file emails which do not require responses at this time.

Many thanks to our excellent teachers and support staff for all the hours of work which are taking place off site. You will notice a new page on our school website under the COVID-19 tab. This is called COVID-19 Information and Updates. It contains all the emails sent in the last week and will be updated regularly with other information about school. I was pleased to hear that the quality and clarity of Farncombe's planning has meant that children in other families are currently following our online learning program! It is great to be able to help people beyond our own community at this time.

The following is the plan for children for the remainder of this term:

### **Tuesday 24th - Friday 27th March**

Complete the four tasks from your children's teacher every day.

Read a book and write a comment in their reading record book.

Option to complete Jo Wickes PE lesson (youtube) and the daily Lego Challenges.

Option to sing the song of the day from Out of the Ark [www.outoftheark.co.uk](http://www.outoftheark.co.uk) Follow the @home link on the homepage.

For an extra feeling of connection with other school families, you may like to complete the Jo Wickes workout live (9am) before completing the daily written task and then sing the song at 10.10.

There will be another assembly on youtube on Wednesday morning and one on Friday.

Ideally, watch these after singing at 10.10. Tomorrow's assembly encourages children to display a rainbow in their window. These are appearing all over the area as a lovely sign of hope. Assuming I remain healthy, I will continue to post assemblies on youtube for Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Please bear in mind that there is a lot of time spent in every school just organising pupils; lining up/gathering resources/tidying classrooms/answering different questions or listening to less than succinct comments from pupils during discussions. During your time following

the daily tasks at home you are likely to find that you finish well before 3pm. This is absolutely fine - learning in a small family group is likely to be very intense and your children will need a long break afterwards. You might want to build in daily outdoors exercise into the afternoon and then allow for a more relaxing evening.

### **Saturday 28th March**

This is our planned day to develop the forest school area. Obviously, I cannot encourage families to gather together during this time. However, I see no reason why families cannot take it in turns to visit our new forest school site (bringing and removing their own tools) and start to plant the saplings. More information to follow later this week on a possible timetable.

### **Sunday 29th March**

Follow government guidelines and try to stay safe and healthy. Choose something relaxing to do and look after yourselves and your wellbeing. You might consider making an Easter Hat with your children to be a relaxing activity, or this may be lower down your list of preferred options for the day.

### **Monday 30th March**

As per the guidance above (four daily tasks etc.)

### **Tuesday 31st March**

This is our Easter Pause Day. We organise one every year. Materials are attached for you to choose activities. Do whatever you feel comfortable with. In school, we had planned to meet at St John's Church for our annual Palm Service, followed by a day without the usual Literacy and Maths and rushing around. It is a day for reflection and peace, so your child's teacher will not post the usual four tasks. Guildford Diocese provide our Pause Day materials and I am sure that the team up there are busily creating at home resources for this event. If so, I will pass these onto you instead.

### **Wednesday 1st April**

This was the day planned for our Easter Hat Parade. Your child's teacher will provide the usual daily four tasks. In the afternoon, please display a hat for each infant child in your household in your front window. Hopefully, families will then be able to use their daily exercise slot to walk, jog or cycle around the local streets to see the beautifully created hats. Images of hats can also be emailed into school for display in the new gallery page. You can send an image of just the hat itself, or include your child.

### **Thursday 2nd April**

As per the guidance above (four daily tasks etc.)

We have class group assemblies on Thursdays in school. These are more intimate than the whole school collective worship sessions which take place on other days. Thursday assemblies allow teachers the chance to address any issues which may have arisen in the class, or to discuss our school values in a more detailed way than that permitted in a larger group. You may like to light a candle and discuss the current situation; their hopes and fears about it and what they could like to do once their freedom returns. Look out for a new page on the school website featuring ideas next week.

**Friday 3rd April**

Four tasks to complete.

I hope this summary is helpful.

I continue to be the designated safeguarding lead for Farncombe School. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the school office, who will pass them onto me. If you are worried about a child and want an instant response, contact the NSPCC (0808 800 5000).

Surrey County Council have created a community line for those who need household help and for those who can offer. Feel free to contact 0300 200 1008 if this is relevant to you.

Thank you to those parents who emailed in images of children's work. Sadly, the images which were contained within the body of the email cannot be seen in school. I have no idea why - please resend if possible. Those emails which contained the images as an attachment will be seen later today on our school website. I look forward to seeing more of these as the week progresses. Headteachers have been told today that we must create systems to check on the quality of work completed at home and children's academic progress. As we are only in Day 2 of this new current system, which we had to pull together in a very limited period of time, it is very early to organise this. The teachers and I have started to consider options and hope to have something in place next week.

I am planning to continue the daily street strolls at 2pm (using my daily outdoors exercise slot). It was a delight to visit Grays Road and George Road yesterday and I look forward to seeing Farncombe Street and Station Road later today. Tomorrow (Wednesday) I will visit North Street and Tottenham Road.

Best Regards,

Andrea

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