



20/04/20

Dear parents and carers

I hope you and your extended family are well, both here and abroad. I know lots of children are really starting to miss being in school – we are missing them all hugely! Teachers will be calling all children this week to say hello and to check in with you to make sure you are all okay. Please do not hesitate to let us know when we call if you need any help or support. These are difficult times for everyone, both in terms of mental health and wellbeing but also in terms of finance. We have said it before – if food is running low, please let us know straight away. Please do not feel embarrassed asking for help – lots of families are struggling right now and we want to help if we can. Remember you can always send an email to admin@springfield.hackney.sch.uk if you are concerned about anything and we will call you back.

We have now come to the end of our fourth week in lockdown and know that we face **at least** three more weeks of schools remaining shut. Home learning continues! On behalf of all our staff, we would like to say a huge well done to all of you for managing so well to ‘home school’ your children. It is a difficult task, especially when many families are also trying to continue working from home. Despite the challenges you are facing, we have been so impressed by the range of home learning that families have posted on Seesaw – it has been especially great to see some of the lovely, creative tasks children have been engaging in at home. Cooking is clearly a favourite! I’ve seen lots of pictures of home baked cookies and cakes – a great activity to do with children and one they absolutely love. It has also been great to see how happy and proud the children look when they post pictures and videos of their learning.

As we now settle back after a very strange Easter break, we would like to see children returning to a routine which involves them continuing to do some school work every day (not at the weekend of course!). We fully understand that home learning can be difficult and there will be days when it doesn’t go to plan. However, we also know that children respond well to some structure: where they get up early, get dressed and settle down after breakfast to do some school work.

Your child’s teacher will continue to send out a timetable at the start of each week, with an outline of what they would like children to do at home. **Where possible**, we would like children to do some literacy and maths work in the morning and something more creative in the afternoon. The work we set for the afternoon is **optional** – if your child completes their morning learning, we are more than happy for you to organise their afternoon or to take some of the ideas we send home and try them. We would like children not to spend all their afternoons in front of a computer screen but instead to spend time making something, building something, drawing something, cooking something, inventing something, growing something, playing something or simply curling up on the sofa and reading a great book. We would also like to know that children are engaging in something physical and managing to get out for a safe daily walk, some exercise or a cycle. This is really important.

Where possible, we would really love to see your child posting a picture of their work on Seesaw every day. Asking children to post a picture of their work will help them to understand that teachers do expect them to do **some** school work every day, that teachers will be looking at their work and will often comment on it. We are not asking to see every piece of work your child does – however one piece a day would be great. If you still haven’t been able to use Seesaw, do let your teacher know this week when they call and they will help you set it up. We are making some changes to Seesaw later on this week which will enable children to view each other’s work – do encourage them to have a look. We also

know that the Department for Education is developing some online lessons. We will send out more information about this as it develops.

Please do remember over the next few weeks that home learning is not easy and we expect there to be lots of 'ups and downs'. If it is causing you or your child to feel stressed, please stop and take a break or reduce the amount of time you are spending on it. Above all else, remember that the most important thing you can do right now is to enjoy spending time with your child and do your best to make sure they are happy and healthy – if you are achieving this, then that is great.

We look forward to talking to lots of you this week . Stay positive and stay safe.

Best wishes

Fiona

Headteacher