



Headteacher: Mrs. Diane Frainer
Hertfordshire County Council

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6th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well and for those of you that have been unwell, that you are starting to recover.

We hope that you have enjoyed the teaching and learning opportunities that the teachers have been sending you. Please remember that these are ideas and you do not need to feel under pressure to do them all! You all have different commitments at home- managing a family, some of you are trying to work from home or still go out to work, some of you have been trying to home school other children too. The most important thing is to stay safe and look after one another. The teachers won't be sending out activities over the holidays, so please just enjoy each other.

If you are trying different website links that the teachers are recommending, please remember that we have not been able to check these and you still need to be responsible for your child's e-safety at home. This will mean checking the website first to ensure it is safe to use.

We are now supporting some families who are going through a difficult time financially. Please do ask for help if you need to. In the first instance please contact me on head@yorkroad.herts.sch.uk

The staff have been busy at home accessing lots of on-line learning themselves, using this time to enhance their own professional development. They are all missing the children and you all a great deal, and like myself, hope we can be together again soon. No matter when it is, we promise a big party to celebrate!

Some teachers have used Zoom video calls to speak with parents. If you and the teacher both agree you are happy to do this- this will be via the teacher's school email address and not their personal one. They will only use this as a platform for parent consultations or SEND reviews (which we plan to set up after these holidays). The staff will be advised to not use zoom for 'catch ups' with you or for any social events. This is to ensure everyone is safeguarded.

Tapestry is our chosen online learning tool- where you can send in vidoes of your child to your child's teacher. This is a lovely way to stay in touch and I believe Ruth Cotterill even sent you all a video story last week! I just need to persuade some more staff to take the plunge and have a go!

I will continue to follow all DfE and Government guidelines to manage the safety of the school, staff and children attending York Road and will update you of any new procedures. Please do keep an eye on the guidelines and advice yourselves- but do not overload - it can become quite stressful if you watch too much on TV or on social media and we all need to maintain a healthy mind.

I am just coming out of self-isolation as one of my own children and myself have been unwell with this virus. It's not been fun and we can all keep each other safe by staying at home. My father lives near the beach and he sadly reported to me that he has seen so many people breaking the rules and being close together on the seafront. Let's hope that this unthoughtful behaviour stops soon and we can begin to think about re-starting our lives again. Some good things that have happened so far.....

Slowing down in life, less driving, more family time, less 'planes in the air, less pollution, time to plant seeds ready for growing fruit and vegetables this year (if you haven't a garden you just need a window sill), time with your pets (my 3 dogs and 2 cats are very happy I am at home more!), more cuddles with children, time to be mindful and time to stop and breathe.

Yours faithfully

Diane Frainer

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Headteacher & Yorkies Manager