

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 3! So here we are in another lockdown and what a start to the year we have all had, and I include everyone in that....staff, parents and carers of children at school and at home, and our fantastic, resilient children.

THANK
YOU!

We would like to start by saying thank you for your support in the last 2 week, as it has certainly been a very different start to the one we had been expecting! Thank you particularly for all the supportive messages we have received, they have helped all staff to get through what has been a particularly challenging few weeks.

Last Tuesday, we were delighted to welcome back small groups of children and we have been very impressed that they have returned eager to learn and settled back quickly. We have also been really impressed at how quickly pupils and parents have adapted to the home learning. We understand the frustrations of having to set up, ready to learn at home on Tuesday, with such short notice. Thank you.

We hope our plans for this second lockdown have meant that we were more set up for online learning, particularly in starting the online teaching sessions this week. The feedback has been really positive with the structure and connection it provides. We know there were teething problems so we thank you for your patience as we have set this up.

We would like to extend our thanks to all the staff who have returned to school despite anxieties and families of their own at home and to those continuing to work from home during periods of isolation and illness. The staff have worked tirelessly as a team at this very challenging time and we are very grateful.

We had to postpone the opening of our hub school at Laughton this week but are now ready to open on Monday. We look forward to welcoming children from Firle to Laughton and hope that the children are able to make some new friends.

Online learning

We are really impressed with the learning that has been taking place at home and how many children have been attending the daily online sessions this week. We will share some of the brilliant work over the coming weeks. I know teacher are using Friday as a sharing sessions, so I am sure children have been able to share learning they are proud of.

When children are on Zoom calls, we remind you of the guidelines shared previously. Children will all be muted during the session and can send message, if they do not understand something. We ask that they do not unmute themselves.

Parents must not take photos, screen shot or record any part of the meeting on a phone or other device due to privacy. If there are power points or clips used, we will ask teachers to share them on the learning platform.

We do very much sympathise with parents who are battling with remote learning at home with their children - we know this can be extremely challenging as methods may have changed since parents were at school, or parents have

Firle Church of England Primary School, Firle, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 6LF Tel (01273) 858260

got more than one child at home or a full time job, and they are trying to juggle several different sets of activities; we firmly believe we are all heroes in our own ways during this pandemic and we are keen to support parents however we can.

We would like to repeat our message from the previous lockdown and to encourage you to do what you can with your child. Children will respond differently to activities and on different days. If something is tricky, please be assured that it can be left and a different activity or task can be done instead.

We understand that it can be hard, particularly now with the online lessons, not to compare children and what they can do. All children are different and have their own strengths and challenges. We have a wide range of abilities in class and when in school, we can manage these in very different ways. Not being in school will already be tricky for children and not working together with friends and teachers makes learning harder. We know you are all doing your very best; so please remember to stay calm, do what you can with your child and if things do not get completed, do not worry.

We are always here if you have questions or need any support or advice around working with your child at home.

Shared below are some links for you to use for other resources or ideas to explore

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/live-lessons/primary-live-lessons/zmc9jlv>

<https://talkingtales.org/resources.html>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

<https://thedailymile.co.uk/at-home/>

And as before, Joe Wicks is back with his daily PE videos to keep us all moving.

As we work through the coming days and weeks we remind you all to be kind to yourself. Acknowledge that this is stressful, and strange, and that you feel what you feel: worried or angry or frightened or confused, or whatever. Then remember that those feelings don't have to overwhelm you.

You are here. You are doing this. And you will be ok.

For everyone, remember to find ways to practice self-care - even if only for a few minutes every day - by getting out and exercising or taking some time away from screens, books, and other people to help calm down all those worries and stresses.

We appreciate that this is a difficult time for everybody and want to support you as much as we can. Please do let us know if you have any questions, concerns or constructive feedback because we recognise the value of good communication in maintaining a positive relationship across the entire school community. We will get through this together.

Stay safe and enjoy the weekend. Try and find a way to stop and be clear about the weekend starting so that there is differentiation between the school week and the weekend.

With kind regards,

Mrs Rachel and West and Mrs Vicki Brown