



Dosthill Primary Academy
High Street,
Dosthill,
Tamworth,
Staffordshire,
B77 1LQ

01827 214930
office@dosthill.org



*Part of the
Fierté Multi-Academy Trust*

Monday 30th March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well during the continuing Covid-19 pandemic that we are currently facing. Thank you to everyone for your continued support and positive community approach that has been shown during the last week since school closed.

School just isn't the same without the children and we look forward to the time when we can welcome everyone back. Please say 'hello' to the children from all of the staff at Dosthill Primary. I hope that the learning on teams has been progressing well and that children are getting used to the new way of accessing their learning. If you have any problems with Teams please do refer to the communications from Mrs Nicholson. In addition, there are home learning links on our school website within the COVID -19 area.

We recommend setting up a timetable for the day to help bring about structure for your child/children to follow. Please include them in designing this along with breaks and fun activities to keep them motivated.

I talk to the children a lot about the brain and how we develop neural pathways and connections when we learn. We link this to pathways in a cornfield; for example if you walk through a field of corn every day you will create a deep pathway. Similarly, if you practise your reading, spelling, multiplication tables, maths facts each day you will create deep learning pathways in your brain. However, if a cornfield isn't walked through regularly, the pathways will fade away and eventually disappear. Once again, this is similar to learning – if you do not practise regularly, the learning will fade away too. Therefore, do encourage your child to complete activities each day so that their learning pathways deepen rather than fading away.



Please keep up the daily reading, spelling, number bonds/multiplication tables along with the other activities available on Teams.



Internet Safety/Safety on-line

Please ensure that you continue to monitor your child's computer and mobile phone usage. It is important that children are aware of the dangers and on-line risks. Please do talk through these with your child/children. The following website links include advice and support (The government advice is attached as a PDF also).

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers-whose-children-are-using-social-media>

Mental Health

The following website for adults has some useful tips to support when social distancing/staying at home.

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/>

Message from Julia Jones – Chair of Governors

My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the whole school community at Dosthill during these extraordinary times when every one of us is making huge sacrifices.

The staff have worked incredibly hard over the last few week to set up learning from home or childcare for critical workers.

Here are a few thoughts - forgive me if you have heard them before:

- Try to establish a routine for each day, including opportunities for exercise. When I was last in school with your children as the crisis was beginning to unfold it struck me what an 'oasis of calm' school was for your children and how that was helping them to learn.
- Can you provide an 'audience' for your child's work? I know that's what school will be doing but can you share some of your child's efforts with other family members for example? I am thinking perhaps grandparents here! You only need to talk to children about their work that is so beautifully displayed round school to appreciate what it means to them that their work is valued.
- Take the opportunity to do lots of practical things with your children. You never know we may have a new generation of cooks, gardeners, sewers and knitters! Skills that will last them all their lives. Something good may come out of all this!
- Finally do keep in touch with school- through 'Teams' and the school website for a start. The office is currently open to calls each morning from 8.30-12pm.

If there is anything we as Governors can do we will. I will be in touch with Mrs. Keay regularly as we try to support you throughout this crisis.

May you all keep safe and I look forward seeing your children when things return to normal.

With very best wishes,
Julia Jones
Chair of Governors



Promising Academic
Achievement



Ensuring
Excellence for All



Inspiring Each Other;
Achieving Together



Crafting Character
Skills for Life

When will schools re-open?

Currently, we do not know when schools will re-open but we will keep you updated regularly so that as a community we remain united and here to support the children of Dosthill Primary Academy.

As these are unprecedented times, of which we have never experienced before, we greatly appreciate your continued support. Even though we continue to work with you at distance, the children, yourselves and whole school community remain in our thoughts and hearts.

Continued good health and warmest best wishes,

Mrs Claire Keay
Headteacher

Julia Jones
Chair of Governors

Mrs Maria Hamblin
CEO Fierté Trust