



19.4.2020

Welcome back to our very first remote summer term! I hope you all well and have had a pleasant Easter break.

We've all had to adapt to new ways of working and we are all doing our jobs the best way we know how so I wanted to take the opportunity to remind you that it's okay if you and your child feel wobbly and worried at the moment. We're here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together. No one expects parents to act as teachers, or to provide the same level of activities, routines and feedback that a school would.

We are all playing our part here - whether it is staff in school or you at home with your children. At the moment many people are juggling like never before! I know many parents are doing their best to carry on with doing their job or working from home, whilst also trying to teach their child or children. If it makes anyone feel better - many teachers have said that they find it easier to teach their whole class rather than their own child/children! Be kind to yourself and do what is realistic and possible. Try to enjoy at least some of this time and remember - you are building memories for your families to look back on in years to come. My hope is that we will come out of the other side with a renewed appreciation of the simple things in life. Your family needs to know that above all the demands of work, home-schooling and juggling - you love them. Stay safe and remember, be kind to yourself.

We miss the children and over the holidays have made a video for our Cotsford families to let you know that we are thinking about you all during this very different and challenging time. We hope you have fun watching!

Just because we're not all in the same building, doesn't mean we can't have some fun together! Your children will have lots of activities they can get stuck into over the summer term. From tomorrow your child's teacher will be uploading daily home learning activities to the Class Dojo pages again.

For those of you with limited technology / internet access we have some new paper based learning packs available. Please get in contact with us if you would like one for your child.

We also love seeing the children's fantastic learning at home - please keep uploading their work and the activities that you are doing to their Dojo portfolios.

From tomorrow you'll also be able to access regular daily lessons in English and Maths, as well as other subjects, including Science, History, Geography, Music and Art in an expanded version of the BBC Bitesize website and also on special programmes broadcast on BBC iPlayer and BBC Red Button.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

The Government also published guidance today to support parents with home learning:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Finally, there is lots of information out there about coronavirus. Not all of it is based on facts or evidence. Help stop your children worrying about things that might not be true by talking to them about where their ideas come from and encourage them to talk to you if they don't know if something is true. Find out more at

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/covid19mentalhealth>

We can't say yet when we'll be able to open the school fully, but rest assured that we'll continue doing our utmost to keep your child learning and our school community connected.

So enjoy the video and let's get cracking with our summer term!