



NEWHALL
PRIMARY ACADEMY AND NURSERY

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Friday 27th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we head towards the weekend following, what has to be, one of the most surreal weeks of my career, I find myself writing this letter sat at my desk in the spare room at home. I am sure many of you have found yourselves in a similar position.

It has been lovely to catch up with what the children have been up to on Tapestry and through some of the emails you have sent through to the Office. I know that some people have sent emails through about wanting more work sent home, however there was enough work sent home for the two weeks leading up to Easter last Friday. There are also links to some great websites and further learning packs on the 'Home Learning' section of our website. I will continue to update this with ideas and links.

The most important thing you can do at the moment is spend time with your child/ren because they must be finding all of this very strange and they will pick up on the anxiety of people around them. They will also be missing the interaction with their friends and the routine of coming into school every day.

Please be kind to yourselves and do not put undue pressure on the children. Everybody will be in a slightly different situation. Some of you are key workers - thank you - and you have a partner probably trying to juggle working from home along with looking after your child/ren. Some of you are trying to juggle two parents working from home with looking after your child/ren (I know what that is like!). Some of you have all of a sudden found yourselves without work, which brings its own anxieties, and you are trying to create some sort of routine for your child/ren. There are others that have found themselves cooped up in a small flat with young children and only allowed one walk a day. Life has changed dramatically over the last two weeks, it is going to take us some time to adjust.

I am extremely relieved that the vast majority of you are able to keep your children at home because home is the safest place for them.

The decision was taken on Wednesday that Newhall would close and Pemberley would become a hub for the REAch2 schools in Harlow. A member of the Newhall team will attend Pemberley each day for the next three weeks (apart from Good Friday and Easter Monday when the childcare facility is closed) in case any Key Worker children require care. It is important that you let the office know if your child will be attending so that we can ensure that the member of staff has a register and your child's details to hand.

All the Newhall staff are working from home planning and preparing, as well as completing online learning themselves. Senior Leaders are conference calling daily and all other staff are conference calling twice a week. Emails are being checked daily and we will try to respond to your queries



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promptly. We are also juggling working from home with looking after our own children - I leapt from a Joe Wicks workout to a Headteacher's conference call the other morning! Not something I ever thought I would be doing. Thank you to all the people who have sent in kind emails and dropped in cards last week - the staff and I really appreciate it.

As we enter our second week of 'lock down', please be kind to yourselves and do not put undue pressure on yourself and your child/ren to complete every worksheet/book/website. We will make sure they catch up when they are back in school. The most important thing is that you are all safe and well.

I hope you have a restful weekend and that the sun continues to shine.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Gayler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mrs Debbie Gayler