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*Nurturing &
growing together*

24th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Weekly Update

This week we have been working hard to try and contact all families and wherever possible, teachers are trying to speak to children to see how they are doing and whether they need any help doing their home learning. I am really grateful to the teachers for doing this as I know that it means a lot to the children to hear from their teacher during this time.

The news seems to reflect that we are seeing fewer reported cases and fewer admissions into hospital, which is very positive indeed. However, now is not the time for us to relax. It is vital that we all keep up the measures to socially distance for just a little bit longer. The safest thing to do is to continue to stay at home unless this is not possible.

One of the key concerns that some parents have had, is that there is no suitable device for children to access online learning. I do understand that in some households the only device is a mobile phone, which cannot be worked on. As such we are preparing a limited number of physical packs to be collected from school. **I need to make it clear that these packs cannot be for all children. If you have a device at home and your child is accessing the google drive, the safest thing to do is stay at home and continue to work in this way.** If you are just having technical difficulty with getting onto the drive, please call the helpdesk on the school number and we will work with you to resolve the technical issue.

We have now compiled a list of families who do not have any devices to use at home and will be contacting those families first, to arrange when they can come and collect a pack. **Please do not come to the school unless you have been contacted because we cannot ask large numbers of people to congregate at the same time.** This would be putting yourself and the staff at risk. The packs will contain exactly the same work as is on the google drive.

I also want to mention the frustration that we are experiencing with the FSM voucher system. We have activated all the vouchers and those parents eligible will receive an e-code which they need to redeem for a store voucher at their chosen supermarket. The school does not decide who is eligible for FSM. This is something you need to apply for directly on the council website. I know this is confusing because in Newham, all children get a free school meal, but this does not mean that they are automatically entitled to one.

Finally, I would like to encourage families to please take advantage of the daily exercise that you are able to leave your home for. It is really important that children get some fresh air and take some daily exercise. This is not a chance to socialise with others and children must be supervised at all times, but it is important for their mental and physical health to stay as healthy as possible. Please remember that children need lots of breaks and cannot work solidly all day. The website is updated every Friday with a suggested timetable and work structure that you can follow. Weekends and afternoons are for relaxing and wellbeing. Looking after their mental health is the most important thing right now.

Best wishes,
Ms Von

