

West Dartmoor Federation



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Dear Parents,

Now we have finished the first week of our new term I thought I would drop you a line to keep you updated on what is happening and to see how everyone is.

We all hope you are coping with these difficult times and that all our children are also safe and well. Please tell the children they are all missed as the schools seem very strange places without the usual noise and bustle.

Thank you to those of you who have stayed at home with your children. This has enabled us to remain open for a small number of key worker children daily at Meavy and it has helped me to be able to rota the staff so those that are vulnerable can work from home. We are immensely proud of our parents who are key workers, in particular our frontline NHS workers who continue to go to work and put themselves at risk every single day. Thank you from all of us for everything that you are doing to help the UK get through this.

I hope that the daily plans the teachers are doing is of help. The expectation isn't necessarily for children to be working a normal school day, that would be an impossible ask. We also fully understand that, as many of you are also working from home, the video conferencing or even writing an important email is made many times more difficult by trying to 'teach' children!! I remember one of those blooper clips when some VIP was doing a television interview at home and his children burst into the room!! I imagine that scene has become somewhat usual in many homes over the last few weeks!! We do not expect you to become teachers. However, everyone has great skills and life experiences which the children can really learn from. Cooking, gardening and those type of projects are also very valuable experiences. Get the board games out; there is so much learning involved in a game of snakes and ladders, turn taking, one to one correspondence, as well as your child loving the fact that they have your attention. If you have a pack of cards, why not teach your child some different card games starting with basic games such as Snap and Pairs.

We have now set up email addresses for each class which will be on class pages soon. These will not necessarily be checked every day as some staff are in school but it gives you and the children an opportunity to keep in touch and ask questions. We would also love some pictures of things you are doing. I am sure our way of working will evolve over the next few weeks.

Unfortunately, none of us can predict when we will be back in school or how that will happen. I hope the government will give us a little more notice than they did for the initial closure. However, one question that I get asked by Y6 is what will happen to their leaving party if we do not come back until September. If that

does happen then we will simply organise a Friday or Saturday one when we do return. We all want to say 'good luck' to the Y6 leavers so don't worry we will still be able to do that.

Please remember that we are in school and available if we can be of help. We want everyone to stay well and return safely to us when we reopen fully.

Lots of love to you all,

From all the Staff at Lady Modiford's and Meavy