

**Pimperne Church of England (VC) Primary School**  
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Dorset  
DT11 8WF

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Headteacher: Mrs. F. Waller B.Ed. Honours

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27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents,

Congratulations... it's Friday! I hope that you are well and have enjoyed the sunshine!

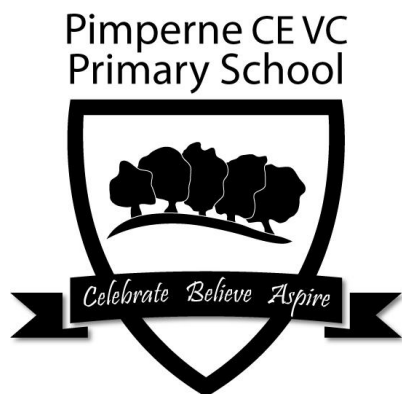
Many of you will have received an email from your child's class teacher – as a test. (Don't panic if you haven't – they were working on a 'by close of day Monday 30<sup>th</sup>' target)! Some were just extra keen to get in touch! I would like to take this opportunity to explain the purpose behind the emails. They have been set up so that you can share any news and we can check that your children are physically and emotionally well. For my staff well-being, I ask you to continue to share your child's news (related to the home learning tasks or other news) as I know that they will be wondering about each and every child. I am sure that class teachers will not mind responding to the occasional question about a learning task, but they are working exceedingly hard to provide self-explanatory learning, which is posted to the school website 'Home Learning' tab. Please may I ask that you do not request further learning as this would be considered an unreasonable expectation at this current time. We are providing more than enough ideas for home learning on our website. If you have any suggestions, I am always open to those ideas so please contact me on the above email.

As you may expect, the Department for Education and Dorset Council are keeping us flat out on the administration aspect of whole new (unprecedented) systems but we are seeing our way through some conflicting advice to give you a balance of home learning that is wrapped in flexibility. Many of you have commented that your child/ren is/are thriving on a time-table that sets out expectations, we find this at school too. Please have a look at the weekly learning packs (these are not really intended to be printed – with our 'green' hats on - but looked at for ideas). The class teachers are setting what they consider to be reasonable for the week, and are asked to take into account some time for other things that children need: breaks, physical exercise, communication, play, down-time and of course, lunch!

The DFE require us to monitor aspects of children's learning; we are doing this through the setting of specific work on 'Sumdog'. Please make sure that this work is completed as a priority on a weekly basis as it will form part of your child's assessment at the end of the year. For Reception, this is through 'Tapestry'; we have loved seeing what your child is doing and learning – thank you. Please continue to take photos or write in.

The 'Home Learning' tab, on the school website, shares ideas for P.E. In addition, there are ideas extending from Worship based around our school values – the first of these is 'Compassion'. These may form part of a useful discussion point for family discussions or debates (if you are not having enough of those!). You will also find a developing list of 'other' online links for children to explore. We will continue





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to add to this tab for 'alternative' aspects for learning experiences. If you have access to a printer, then you will find the 'Twinkl' website very useful (currently free); this has many printable activities for your child's year group for all subjects of the curriculum. Please do use these if you are unable to support other activities with your children – due to home working, etc. Years 1,2,3,4,5, sent this out to you (with a free offer code) in the learning packs 23/3/20 (Offer code: UKTWINKLHELPS). Today you have received an another email also alerting you to this facility, supplying a further code.

I have asked the teachers to forward any of your concerns about processes, etc to me, as you can appreciate I do not want them to feel pressured to communicate beyond the big 'ask' that I am already putting on them right now. Many of my staff, teaching and support staff are still working shifts within our school to keep it open – to help us do our bit to help others 'save lives'. By minimising their contact ensuring social distancing, we will be able to keep our school running for those critical key workers who face the front line. For those front line workers, our school has taken the decision to work through the Easter break and the bank holidays. I thank my whole team for their care and their support in this, as I know many of you have already done. Those staff, who are 'stuck' at home, are supporting the planning and administration cogs of the school. Those who are in school are cleaning and sanitising daily, as well as laughing alongside children, engaging them in a range of activities, ensuring lunches get to the most vulnerable, answering queries, etc etc – again they are indeed an amazing staff.

I have included an additional attachment with this email on Trauma Informed Schools and the importance of addressing the needs of your child. It re-iterates how important 'play' is in your child's life and in connecting with you in this way and how it can reduce their anxieties / behaviours. We will support you, with ideas for play in the coming days and weeks via the school website.

If you are a 'twitter'er (☺) then we have just launched our new whole school twitter – have a look out for us! All I can say is ...one step at a time!

For now, I wish you a wonderful weekend.  
Stay safe, keep your distance and don't do the un-necessary!  
Yours

Fiona Waller  
Headteacher

