

Fordham All Saints (VC) Primary School

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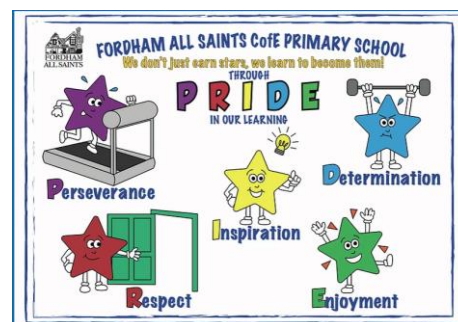
Happy New Year!

It is hard to believe that we have only completed the first week of 2021 and what a week it has been! The staff in school have done the impossible and with only twelve hours' notice have produced work, uploaded it to the website and printed off packs for all those who requested them all whilst catering for those children of critical workers who had no option but to send their children into school. I am so proud of how staff have turned things around, they have worked for hours on end to research activities which will be manageable for you at home but link with what we had planned to be covering in school. This is not something that they can do at the flick of a button and takes time, thought and an understanding of your children.

Lots of people are feeling stressed, overwhelmed and under pressure by everything that is happening at the moment. We know that some of you want us to produce live lessons, as they do in secondary schools, some of you want more packs with more work, whilst some of you are wondering how to fit the home learning in whilst trying to work from home. All of this in a situation where we have slow broadband and in some places intermittent internet access. Please remember that teachers are in the same situation, they are supporting your children, whilst also supporting their own families. We are all finding our way.

From our experience during the last lockdown we know that those children who engage with at least some of the home learning find it easier to get back into learning when schools return to more normal routines. We are not planning lessons as if they were being delivered in the classroom, that is not possible for parents to do, and would make schools unnecessary. The work we are giving you is to revisit and remind children of what they have learnt. This means no child will fall behind, it is also great for helping children really remember concepts by revising and revisiting them. When children are in school the work will be introduced by the teacher but more often than not the children are encouraged to complete the work with a degree of independence (even those in year 1). So when you are at home you may well have to discuss with your child what they need to do, but then they should be encouraged to do some work without your help. This will really benefit them in maintaining those independence skills we have worked so hard to build during the autumn term.

If your personal details or consents have changed please notify the office.



Upcoming Events

15th February review of National Lockdown in England

You're braver
than you believe,
stronger than you
seem, and smarter
than you think.
Winnie the Pooh



More Important News

We often have requests for live lessons and there are many reasons why we do not deliver these in primary school. Our overriding concern is that children should not be glued to a computer screen for hours on end. Secondly, there is the inequality of access which means that some children will benefit now but when we return to school the learning will need to be revisited for those who have not had access. Finally, children have varying attention spans, it really is not appropriate to expect a five year old to watch a lesson for 20 minutes when they are at a developmental stage where concentration for longer than ten minutes is almost impossible. As things settle into a routine I am hoping to live stream assemblies at least once a week via Zoom. The staff have made some amazing videos which they have been uploading to Class dojo. If you haven't seen them yet please do have a look. We will also be contacting families' just to touch base and check everything is OK on a regular basis.

If you have limited computer access I am more than happy to lend families a school lap top. If you are worried about using your mobile phone data allowance I am able to request data increases as schooling for children has been disrupted. For each request, we need to know:

- the name of the account holder
- the number of the mobile device
- the mobile network of that device (for example Three)

I will then be able to submit a request via the DfE. The mobile provider will text the account holder once the data allowance has been extended.

Some families will find that their circumstances have changed, either with parents being made redundant or being furloughed. It may be that you are now eligible for free school meals (other than the KS1 universal free school meals which all under 7 year olds get when in school). Please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will be able to advise you on your eligibility. We will be organising vouchers to be sent out to families every fortnight. There may be a slight delay in sending out the vouchers as the system is not quite up and running yet.

Finally, we have been here before and we were strong enough to get through it. We are in a similar situation now and we have the strength and courage to get through this too. You are not alone, we are a community who can support one another. Be kind to yourself and to others.

Have a lovely weekend,

Julie Ingram

In the Community

School website

I will be adding information and updating the website over the next few weeks. Please do visit the site to keep up to date with all that is going on in school.

www.allsaints-fordham.essex.sch.uk



Prayer for Courage

Dear God,
Bind the pain and fear that has taken hold of me,
Restore my heart, courage and determination,
So that I may swim through the grief,
And seas of uncertainty,
Heading towards the golden island of Tomorrow,
Where healing waters will restore my body and spirit,
And kindle the memories of who You created me to be.