

# Fordham All Saints (VC) Primary School

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Good morning everyone,

I hope you have had a good week and you are all keeping safe and well. I have been into school and met a few more people. It is so lovely to see how happy the children are in school and to hear about the activities they are doing in their pods. The highlights of Mrs MacMillan's week have been the Zoom assemblies. It was absolutely delightful to see so many happy smiling faces. Quite a contrast to normal Zoom meetings and training events, which are all very solemn and serious.

The teachers have all been working hard preparing work, teaching in school and responding to the children's work online. The staff have all been making some amazing video clips which I hope you have enjoyed watching. We have been really impressed with how well everyone is engaging with the work and enjoying the tasks set.

Next week Mrs MacMillan and I will start the home school welfare checks. These will take the form of a quick phone call to check everything is alright at home and you have everything you need. We will start with those families we have had no contact with, just because they are the people who may most need some type of support.

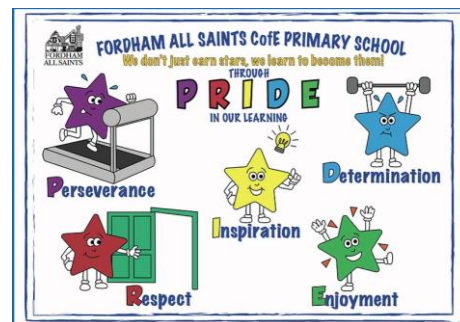
I will also hold a Zoom assembly at 9.30am on Monday morning. I will send out the link via email later on today. It will just be a simple assembly to start the week. It would be really lovely if you could join us. I will hold everyone in the waiting room until 9.40am and then let you all in at once. Please do bear with me however, as the technology doesn't always do what I expect it to. I will try to let late comers in, but I do not always notice people in the waiting room if I am in the middle of a story, so I do apologise if you cannot access the assembly after 9.40am.

The Governors met on Wednesday and had a very productive meeting. We do have some vacancies for parent governors so we will be looking for people to volunteer for this interesting and important role. This is a tremendously exciting time to join the Governing Body at Fordham as we start on the journey of working with Chappel Primary school. If you are interested in joining the Governors or would like to find out more please contact the school and we can put you in touch with someone to tell you all about the role of Governor.

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

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## Upcoming Events

**15<sup>th</sup> February** review of National Lockdown in England



## More Important News

Games consoles – a source of much-needed entertainment for children stuck at home during lockdown – can also function as an educational hub. Specifically, if you own an Xbox One or PS4, you can use it to access the internet and any e-learning tools we have provided. Both consoles are simple.

For the Xbox, press the Xbox button on the controller to open the guide, and then select “My games & apps”. Here, you need to find Microsoft’s internet browser Microsoft Edge.

The PS4’s access is similar. From the PS4 home screen, scroll to the library. Then, click on applications. If you scroll down the apps you’ll see a “www” sign circled by small dots. Click on that, and you’re online.

Both consoles can use a low-cost keyboard and mouse for web browsing – connect these through wireless Bluetooth or USB.

You will be able to use a web browser (such as Google) to find the school’s website and then your child can log on as usual to access the work set by the teachers and any websites to support learning.

There has been a lot of attention in the news on children’s physical fitness during lockdown. It is certainly true that we noticed the children had lost some of their fitness during the last lockdown, they got tired during PE lessons and were out of breath very easily. We also know that physical activity releases endorphins, the feel good hormones. As adults, we can enjoy a lovely walk in the fresh air but for children they may need to have some inspiration or a quest to encourage them to get out of the house and take a walk, especially in the cold weather. You could ask them to take a photo of their best view on the walk, they can post this to their Class Dojo page. Or you could ask them to “find” as many things as possible to fit into a small box (a match box would be ideal). They could time themselves running round the garden, and then see if they could beat their personal best. Anything to make a walk just a little bit more like an adventure and get the children out and about and moving around.

Things have certainly not been easy over the last year, and we are still in difficult and uncertain times. The best way to try to handle our difficult emotions and experiences is by focusing on what we can control. Focus on small steps to try to boost happiness - for ourselves and others around us - to spread kindness and hopefully inspire others to do the same. The action for happiness website has some lovely ideas for small steps to happiness  
<https://www.actionforhappiness.org/january>

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](http://www.allsaints-fordham.essex.sch.uk)



*Dear God,*

I thank You for the week that is ahead. I know You will be with me every step of the way. Please give me strength, wisdom, and guidance. Help me to be a blessing to others as You are to me.

*Amen*