



*We are an inspiring learning community with high expectations, where all feel safe and happy and everybody has the opportunity to unlock and realise their potential*

Dear Families,

In 'normal' circumstances, today would be our last day of the Spring Term and I would be wishing you all a happy Easter before the holiday break! Instead, we continue to find ourselves in strange and challenging times. I want to say how proud I am of our school community – I probably don't say it out loud often enough, but you are all incredible!

Firstly, thank you to all our parents and carers who have taken up the gauntlet, navigated the website and done their absolute best to support their children's learning at home during the past two weeks. Now, more than ever, we need your partnership and support to help ensure that the children are not disadvantaged by events that are unfolding on a daily basis. We have been delighted with the constructive and considered feedback on home learning - this is helping us to understand better what is working well and what we can improve upon. I am building this into our 'Phase 2' plans – more of which later.

Thank you also to the teachers, support staff, admin and site colleagues who have continued to come into school to support our key workers and vulnerable children. These colleagues are working 'on the front line' and putting the needs of our community above their own by continuing to come into work, despite the obvious worries and concerns they have. We should be incredibly grateful to them for their contribution to ensuring the country's infrastructure and NHS in particular continue to function for us all.

Thank you as well to the staff who continue to work from home, setting meaningful learning every day for the children to enjoy. Many are juggling these teaching commitments with those at home of their own families and children.

The office staff have uploaded some links to the website with advice and information on maintaining positive mental health and well-being during this difficult period. Please do have a look at these and know too that we are here to support you through the next few weeks. We are in this together.

I am delighted to let you know that after the holiday, each family will be able to access 15 minutes weekly 1:1 time with their child's class teacher, via School Interviews – our online parent-teacher conference booking system. This will allow you to select a convenient time slot for a video conference call with the teacher so that you can talk about learning you have done, get some personalised help or just say "hello". Even though 'absence makes the heart grow fonder', this will be a great way to ensure that the relationships we have built as a school community, are not overly impacted by the reality of extended 'social distancing' protocols. After the holiday, we will open the booking system and send out instructions on how to access the class teacher's 'room'.

We have also rationalised the way that we set work, so that parents, carers and children have a clear understanding of minimum expectations, how long work should take, and how learning can be extended where this is appropriate. Work will continue to be posted to the website daily, but each class teacher will provide a broad overview of themes / topics at the start of the week, and a round-up of learning on a Friday. We would love it if you would continue to send in your feedback, together with any photographs of the children learning at home.

Finally, do take care of yourselves over the next couple of weeks - don't eat too much chocolate or too many Easter eggs! School will continue to be open for some of our children during the Easter break and we are keeping our fingers crossed for some good weather so that we can spend as much time as possible in the fresh air.

Happy Easter!  
Ms Stockley

Copies of the newsletter are available online at: <http://www.williamhogarthschool.co.uk/newsletters.php>