



24th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a restful Easter break, albeit an unusual and much quieter one I am sure for many of us. I would like to say a huge thank you to our amazing staff; those that continued to connect with you in some ways over their Easter break, and those who kept school open to key worker children so they can continue their front line work.

Welcome to our first remote summer term - and hopefully last I hear many of you cry! We feel the same and miss you all very much but you are doing a brilliant job staying safe at home and keeping your children's brains ticking over and in the good habits of learning so that the eventual return won't feel so daunting. This is all at the same time as ensuring they are keeping their physical and mental health and well-being in good shape and, for many of you, trying to work from home yourselves too. Thank you to you too!

As we continue to follow the government's guidance to keep everyone in our community safe, and because we still do not know when schools will return or how this will work, we're carrying on with our home learning offer until the Government put a plan in place. As soon as we know anything more about possible dates, I will be sure to let you know.

You may be wondering about what you will do when the work packs we sent run out, which, if you have followed them on a daily basis as we asked, should be Friday 1st May. We are currently working on the next stage of learning in this way and will be sending out more work and further information by the end of next week. In the meantime, you can continue to access a wealth of additional resources and websites from the suggestions we sent home and continue to share via Class Dojo, and of course those that you're sharing with each other through our Dowson Family Facebook group page – this has been wonderful to witness. I am so pleased that we can all continue to feel connected in some ways at this time. Please do continue to communicate with your child's class teachers if you want further support or suggestions, as they are more than happy to help.

It's definitely been a strange and challenging time, so it's ok if you and your child feel wobbly and worried at the moment. We're here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together.

Remember, if you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other type of support from the school, please let us know by contacting your child's class teacher via dojo or the school phone will be answered each day – usually by myself; if I can help in anyway or signpost you to another member of staff for example in the





DOWSON PRIMARY ACADEMY

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pastoral team or SEND team, who can contact you if you would like further support, please just call. You can also email the admin@dowson.tameside.sch.uk account for anything you need and put the person you would like to contact in the subject box and this will be forwarded on too.

Finally, I want to reassure you again that, whatever you are managing to achieve from home (and some days that might feel like very little) we will work together whenever we return to support your children in getting back into their routines and catching up the things they may have missed. It's most important that you all remain safe and well and in good spirits at this time. Anything extra you do during this time towards your children's education is great but as we have already said, doing things that contribute to their general life knowledge, skills and understanding is just as important.

Make memories whilst we make history!

Take care and stay safe and well,

Warmest regards,

Mrs Kathryn Thornburn

Principal

