



## FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Edge Hill Road, Sutton Coldfield, B74 4PA

"A Four Oaks Learning Trust for Excellence School"

"A Four Oaks Cluster School"

Head Teacher:

Mr Mark Benton

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### **Distance Learning – Working in Partnership**

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the past few weeks we have had many e-mails, telephone conversations, and face to face discussions with lots of you stating how helpful you have found the distance learning tasks set up by our staff. We've also talked to some parents who are finding it very difficult to get hardly any distance learning tasks done in these challenging times, with families all at home together. Now that we are entering the fifth week of being at home we imagine that some energy levels and attitudes to work may be changing. We just wanted to say again that you mustn't worry about how many of these tasks the children are doing.

Here at Four Oaks we recognise that our children do not all work in the same way and do not all have the same talents and interests. The distance learning tasks that we have been asked by the Government to provide for pupils are solely there as a possible structure for when learning opportunities arise during the day. They do not all have to be completed every day and you can go back to tasks whenever you want to. We also can't differentiate activities, if you would like to challenge your children with harder activities then there is a whole spectrum of activities on the Internet at the moment....please feel free to use them however you wish.

Although the children are more than welcome to bring examples of work back to school when we re-open, it will not be marked, and one child's progress will not be judged against another's. We do not expect any parents to create a rigid structure for each day but merely provide suggestions for activities that may interest the children.

The far more important thing during these troubled times is that your children stay safe and healthy, and are happy at home with you. If what they need is to relax and not complete tasks every day, then please feel free to allow them to do this. If what they need to do rather than look on WordPress is to hear their friends or their extended family's voices over the telephone, then that needs to become your priority. If getting out in the fresh air of your back garden or going for a walk suits your child better, then please do that.....you know your children best.

When school re-opens and the children return, by far our greatest priority will be the mental health of every single child and staff member. There is no getting away from the fact that academic progress and getting children back up to speed with their learning will be important, and the teaching staff will take care of this on an individual

pupil basis, but it will come in second place to the children's well-being. Please try not to worry if you think your child may be falling behind, that is a job which school will attend to, but one thing we definitely know, is that all children learn best when they feel happy and safe.

We know that over the years we have built up a very strong community relationship with our parents and I'm sure this will remain. As a school we will continue to supply parents with a structure of possible learning tasks, because as a school we have a responsibility to do so, but please use them how you want to and complete as much as you practically can....there is no right or wrong approach and none of the tasks are compulsory !

We hope that all of you remain safe and well until we all next meet.

Kind Regards,

**Mark Benton & Louisa Appleby**

(Head Teacher & Deputy Head Teacher)