



Preston Candover CE Primary School

Preston Candover, Basingstoke, RG25 2EE

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Headteacher: Mrs. Simrit Otway

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you all as the rapid events of last week meant for a rather sudden end to school.

Your kind messages have enabled us all to continue to be resilient and given us enormous strength in these challenging times. I hope that you and your families are all safe, well and healthy. That is the most important thing of all. Thank you for your understanding. We, like all of you, are having to get used to a new way of doing things.

I want to reiterate how brilliantly the children have behaved throughout this. Last week, they were asking some very thoughtful and mature questions. I am also very proud of all the team at Preston Candover who have been incredibly supportive of our community.

I know that our teachers worked hard to put together remote learning resources in a short space of time and our admin team have worked relentlessly to support. Even in ordinary circumstances, this would be a busy time of year for the Headteacher and Finance Officer. We have been working flat out to put plans in place ensuring the safety of children of critical workers and of staff who continue to work on-site and off-site. We are dedicated to continuing to support you where we can.

The Prime Minister instructed us on Monday evening to stay at home until further notice unless for:

- shopping for basic necessities, as infrequently as possible
- one form of exercise a day - for example a run, walk, or cycle - alone or with members of your household
- any medical need, to provide care or to help a vulnerable person; and
- travelling to and from work, but only where this is absolutely necessary and cannot be done from home.

The advice is that children should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

The teachers will continue to be contactable via the school office email and will help with elements of remote learning. All children were reminded of their Purple Mash login on Friday. Families who were absent were emailed these last week. Teachers will explore setting 2Do tasks on Purple Mash whilst pupils are at home. Just a note to pupils; when you have completed an activity on Purple Mash, save the learning. Then go back onto the 2Dos and press the 'hand in' button. This will allow your teachers to see how many children use it and it will allow them to feedback through comments.

These free wellbeing resources are also worthy of a look. They are from Maureen Bowes, who is an executive coach for Headteachers. She is excellent.

<https://whenthetensiongoes.com>

Love Hope Justice



We have added a suggested timetable on the school website which might help parents to structure the day with their children. It is just a guide but may be helpful to you. Please look in Home Learning.

I came across this poem that you may have already seen but I thought I would send it in case you haven't read it yet.

"When this is over,
may we never again
take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbours
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.
When this ends
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way — better
for each other
because of the worst."
By Laura Kelly Fanucci

Please take care and keep safe until we are all together again as one school community. It is important that we protect ourselves and others. My thoughts are that this pandemic shows us how interdependent we are and how our well-being is bound up in the well-being of others. Humanity needs to work together to combat this and we all need to play our part. We are incredibly grateful to all of you out there who are working to keep our communities safe and well.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Simrit Otway

Headteacher

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