



25th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We would like to thank you for the overwhelmingly positive response that we have had from parents and carers regarding the online learning that has been set for our students to do at home. I'd also like to extend my gratitude to a wonderful committed staff body who have worked tirelessly to set quality work and resolve any issues that have arisen.

Personally, I'd like to thank every parent and carer who has stepped in to the role of home tutor across this week and done everything that they can to support their children's education. I do not underestimate the monumental request that this is and can only reinforce to you that you are not expected to become teachers and your children aren't expected to learn as they do in school. Simply providing your children with some structure at home will help them to adapt. Please do make sure you are taking care of your own health and wellbeing at this pressurised time too.

Below are some tips that you may find useful as we reach the halfway point in the first week:

- Create and stick to a routine if you can as this is what children are used to in school.
- Check in with your children and try to keep to the timetable, but be flexible.
- Designate a working space if possible .
- Make time each day to incorporate exercise into the routine.
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends.
- Make time for other activities such as creative projects, movies, cooking, exercise or writing letters and postcards to friends and family. Don't forget to allocate chores.
- Accept that they'll probably watch more TV/spend time on their phone – that's ok but you might want to set/agree some screen time limits!

We will be sending out an email tomorrow to Key Worker parents and carers about booking into school across the Easter Holidays. Please do make sure you follow the instructions in that ParentMail carefully as you must book a place for your child if you have **no alternatives** but to ask for them to attend.

We will not be setting work over the Easter holidays and we hope that this will give time for families to be together without the added pressure of having to be a teacher and a parent. To confirm, Reception will be closed. The staff at Axe Valley can't thank you enough for supporting our pupils so carefully through this challenging time with their education. We know how difficult this must be for so many of you. In the second week of the Easter Holiday we will write to parents outlining the work for the new term if schools remain closed.

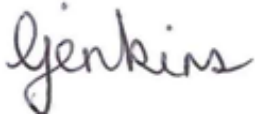
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I'd like to remind you that it was announced on 23rd March that the UK would enter a stricter period of social distancing, with people only allowed to leave home for very limited purposes. The UK-wide measures are intended to delay the spread of the virus. Some members of the community have rung us concerned that they have still seen groups of school aged children gathering locally. **Please do not allow this - we must remain at home.**

Again thank you for your ongoing support. You are all in our thoughts and we hope you stay well. As always don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L Jenkins". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Laura Jenkins
Headteacher