



Dolton Church of England Primary School

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‘Together we nurture, love and learn whilst inspiring changemakers.’

Friday 8th January 2020

Dear parents/ carers,

Well it has certainly been a very interesting and busy start to the New Term and New Year! On Monday I met with teachers to celebrate the achievements from last term and to plan the aspects of our ongoing school development programme this term – the announcement that Boris made the evening of Monday 4th January came as such a shock to us as I am sure it did you too! With that said I want to extend a huge thank you to all school staff who have worked tirelessly through this week, as well as during the whole pandemic to ensure children are still accessing education. I also want to thank you all for your patience and perseverance as we have begun this distance learning journey together. I have had some great feedback from parents over the last few days and have listened to areas that we could develop – I will address these later in my letter.

Despite the challenges that lock down brings the ongoing development of our C360 curriculum, our character education programme and digital learning is still at the forefront of our minds as this in turn ensures the best for the children within our care. At the beginning of December Mr. Roy Blatchford, CBE, attended The Clinton and Dolton C of E Schools to complete a day’s inspection. I am pleased to now be able to share with you some findings from his report:

- The consistently high quality of the learning environment (classrooms, common spaces, entry zones) is a model of its kind for the trust: age-appropriate in classrooms; supportive of learning and celebratory of a range of children’s work; promoting the Alumnis values
- The culture for learning is very strong; children respond with joy and relish to the learning opportunities orchestrated for them
- Teachers are reflective practitioners, taking great pride in their work and planning lessons which differentiate skillfully for mixed-age classes.
- It is clear that the headteacher’s excellent knowledge of the best in primary education has had a distinctive impact on the quality of provision across the two schools.
- The confident individual, the caring contributor, the effective learner – that cocktail is palpably in evidence in Clinton and Dolton, expertly modelled by staff.

This term we continue to drive forward with our curriculum C360, character education programme and digital learning. As part of the character development children will be asked to complete a research project

and have a go at recording themselves doing a TED talk – this will be explained over the coming weeks. Attached to this email you will find the Alumnis MAT character education brochure for more information – you can also access it from the link below.

<https://my.flipbookpdf.net/xlj5V>

We also continue to work towards all Key Stage 2 children having their own Chrome books to enable a smooth home school learning and develop innovative approaches within the classroom. These are now on order so in time each school in the MAT will be issued with them. As part of this process all children will access learning via Seesaw – this is the link I asked you to sign your children up to last night. I am aware that there have been some challenges to accessing learning from home this last week so Seesaw should help. Please see below how we hope to use Seesaw from Monday 11th January.

Seesaw:

- Once you have followed the link that has been emailed to your child's Alumnis email address and completed registration your child will become part of their classes learning site.
- On Monday the teacher will post your child's daily learning in the activities section of the site
- **As of Monday the teacher will message you the joining code for Google Meet on this app.**

The great thing about this app is that it can be accessed on phones, tablets and computers therefore, supporting those of you who have more than one child needing a device in the family home. It also means that children can respond and upload learning straight to the site as well as the teaching being able to make comments against the learning.


We have also listened to your feedback and as of Monday we will only do one Google Meet video call and this will be at **9.15am every day**. You can then plan your child's learning around your day and the teacher can ensure the learning is taking place by working with you on Seesaw.

Although this seems like another change I am hopeful that this new system will support the wellbeing of pupils, parents and teachers whilst ensuring learning is continuing. During this challenging time I would like to remind you all of our two new Inclusion Officers who are working across the MAT to support families. Some of you may have already met and spoken with them. Attached to this letter is an introduction from them.

We are available on the phone on Monday if you run into difficulties. You will still access the registration via Google Meet at 9.15am.

Wishing you all the best and thanking you for your patience.

Kind regards,

 Mrs. Rachael Sharpe