



Thursday 23rd March

Dear everyone,

I've been ringing the bell each day at 9am out of habit and I don't think a Thursday can come and go without me putting a newsletter together! I hope this has reached you – via our app or our website.

Well done on your first week! We know there's been glitches, slow downloads (on some of the national on-line sites for sure; think of the increased volume) and frustrations, but we think almost all of you have made it into the virtual EP classrooms! Whooo!

Some notes from week 1

I hope our personal contact and 'classrooms' have been supportive rather than intrusive /overwhelming. Our aim is to stay connected and to support you with structure, ideas, and routine. I know staff have been calling, so if you haven't picked up the voicemail messages, if you feel neglected or have a query, do call the school landline as Sally Hill or I will always be by the phone. Those children who missed last week are at a disadvantage as they didn't get the practice in class so do ask if you're struggling to get into the classrooms.

Remember it may say 'unknown number' as staff may be using personal mobiles.

Teachers, by force of habit will post new work/ideas each day at 9am. It's up to you if you sit and wait for this and do it straight away or simply know it's there and get round to it. Do comment and 'turn in' work. It lets us know you're there and engaged and retains the class spirit. Bear with us if there are technical hitches now and again! There was a lot of indignation when Coach Martin's Wednesday video wasn't there bang on 10.30am; please remember we don't have an IT department 😊

I'm sure you're overwhelmed, as we are, with the ever increasing online resources and websites popping up let alone the competitive parenting on social media! Remember that we are in this for the long haul so don't worry about doing everything immediately; I'm sure we will all want those gems in weeks to come, so pace yourselves! I have, for example, put a full day's timetable for 'learning with celebrities' on our website front page in the top 'home learning' box. Worth a try?!

If you do nothing else, three absolute winners will always be: sharing good books, family card and board games and some practical learning be that shared cooking or an experiment. And, for the juniors, this is THE perfect time to nail times tables so please do go to Times Tables Rock Stars each day. I hope you are all managing some daily fresh air too, whilst observing the vital physical distancing.

We all miss all of you terribly. A school is a funny place without all the life and noise and demands of 236 children. Staff are in on a rota supporting key workers' children and we are grateful for the social connection this brings. I'm so thankful for the staff's support – both in school and working remotely – in keeping EP together and 'live'.

With love and best wishes to you and all your family. PTO

Kate Ford



Do send images of art/models representing 'EP at Home'! Thanks to Theo and Toby Kurt Gabel who sent this in spontaneously to get us going. I've uploaded a blank newsletter border to the Home Learning page on the website if you'd rather do that. And what about a poem? Here's one from me to get us going....

I'm a book without pages
 I'm a house without walls,
 I'm lonely, I'm boring
 I'm catch without balls.
 I'm a sweet without sugar,
 I'm an owl with no tree,
 I'm restless, I'm twitchy,
 Without you EP!