



Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Dear everyone,

Another week – well done! I noted more parents feeling the strain this week and wondered why this week: it's week 7 and you're programmed for 6 weeks max! We are all in uncharted territory as we try to stay connected and support children into an extended period of home schooling. Do take the long weekend to re-charge and enjoy the sunshine. Honestly, we continue to be so impressed by how the children (and you!) are sustaining engagement. Thank you.

Two wonderful examples of the strength of our community this week. An edition of the Palmer Press, created simply through online collaboration. You should receive a copy via our app. Huge thanks to parent Fiona Macdonald and teacher Rosie Thomson for once again leading on this, and of course, to all the children and staff who contributed! Secondly, overleaf is a painting created virtually by Year 3. Fantastic.

I, with you, will be glued to the government briefing on Sunday to find out the plan for schools; I still have no advance intel. In the meantime, we are planning in detail for a safe and confident return whenever that might be. For example, we are lucky to have the Home Zone for drop-off, enabling parental distancing; we can use our alternative blue gates as well; we now have good stocks of high-quality cleaning materials and we are planning on increasing our handwashing facilities.

Perhaps most importantly, we are increasingly convinced (with the obvious caveat that we are not scientists or statisticians!) that Covid-19 swept through London, Camden and EP in the Spring term, much of it before March. National data supports this as 'confirmed new cases per 100k' puts Camden well down the table and our local hospital admissions are well down. Perhaps most importantly, 5 members of staff have had antibody tests (we volunteered for a UCH research project – now closed sorry!) and all were confirmed positive, meaning that we **HAVE HAD** Covid several weeks ago. Interestingly, none of us had the 'headline' symptoms. Given that other staff have had more traditional symptoms during lockdown, it is possible that many of the children's illnesses in February, March and even January, were Covid.

Clearly this will not in any way reduce our meticulous attention to safety measures going forward, but it might offer some re-assurance to parents as we look to school returning.

#### Weekly updates/tips on remote learning

A parent made such a good point to me this week, that the Google Classroom stream is for many, a child's first experience of social media and online 'chat'. We must ensure together, that we are moderating it and ensuring it is a positive aspect of our virtual EP. So a few observations and requests:

Firstly, whilst it is lovely to see the children chatting and staying connected in the stream some teachers are shutting it down where comments have been thoughtless and unhelpful. Use **THINK** (our acronym in school when sorting out squabbles etc). Ask yourself, is what you're posting (saying) **TRUE, HELPFUL, INTERESTING, NECESSARY and KIND?** If it is, then please say something; if not, think twice!

Secondly, teachers are spending a long time thinking through all the questions that might have been asked in class (can we use..., do you have to....etc) yet children, rather than read things through, just fire a question in the stream! A lesson in being prepared and reading first!!!

Finally, we'd also ask you to have a chat about posting the phrase '**done**'. Children often put this in the stream, often very early in the day. Firstly, it can then intimidate those who have yet to get started and secondly – it often isn't done!!! A reminder that 'turning in work' is the key.

A reminder too, that teachers can answer specific queries in the private comments bar.



### A request from teachers

Sending photos of work is fine, but please do them portrait so that teachers aren't marking sideways! Whoever thought I'd be writing that 6 months ago.

### Taking part in a DfE survey

The DfE wants to do a survey of parents and teachers about their Covid 19 experience. Here's the link to register. Click on this link!

### [DfE survey](#)

### Golden Book Assembly

In the absence of our Friday celebratory assembly, we have decided we will nominate a home learning superstar from each class each week. Book Bingo chocolate stocks will be delivered to your door by Miss Froud this afternoon! So, this week they are:

Ariella in Nursery – Sophie just loves all your minibeast research.

Sam in Reception – your work on your family is just fantastic says Helen.

Theo in Year 1 – Mrs Stokes says your productivity and your daily cheery messages to all are a delight.

Sophie in Year 2 – Mr Cairns is so impressed with your hard work and your positive messages to others.

Cecily in Year 3 – Wow says Miss T! What a fantastic Tin Forest story.

Arthur in Year 4 – Miss Cousins is so impressed with your work and participation.

Saffiya in Year 5 – Mr G and Miss Yaffe are loving all the work you're submitting. Keep it up!

Diarmaid in Year 6 – what a fantastic biography of Charles Darwin. Miss Mac loved it!

Sunflowers by Year 3 – all flowers done at home, sent in, then printed and put together by Miss T.



Well done everyone – another week done . We miss you! In anticipation of a directive on Sunday, look out for more news from us early next week.

With love from all the staff at EP,

*Kate Froud*