

The Firs, Keeping in Touch!

Thursday 14th May 2020

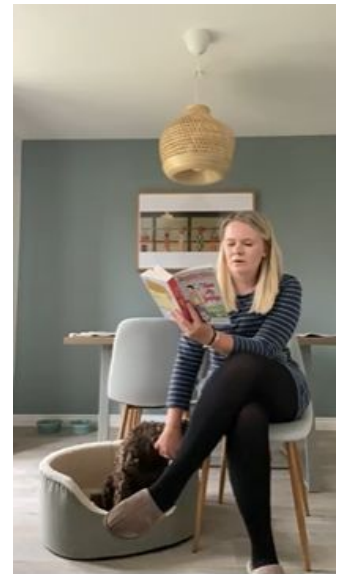
Story Time From The Firs!

We wanted to create another opportunity for children to see and hear from their class teacher and so from this week, staff have begun to record a 'Story Time' video for the children in their class.



This is also a lovely way to celebrate the fun and love of books and listening to a great story and we hope that the children really enjoy seeing their class teacher and the story that they are reading.

The link to the Firs YouTube page where you can find the story time session will be sent out separately today. A big thank you to all the staff for working hard to complete their story time videos and to Alanah Hamilton (Hazel class teacher) for organising this project.



Learning at Home

We hope that the Learning at Home packs continue to be a useful resource for you to help support your child's learning, while children are not in school.

The learning packs for next week will be emailed out tomorrow and the requested printed versions will be available on Friday, outside the school, to be picked up between 8.45 - 15.30. The pack for next week is 'Summer Week 5- week beginning 18/5/20'. There will also be Saplings packs available. (These are now going out every 2 weeks).

As part of our 'Keeping in Touch' programme, we will be sending out the Focus Group 2 emails on Monday. Over half term staff will be contacting the parents for children in Focus Group 3.

Thank you to all the great responses, which have been so useful in keeping everyone 'in touch' and which have provided so many lovely opportunities for children's work, achievements and experiences to be shared and celebrated. Please keep those responses going, we really value your comments and insights into how your child is getting on. Thanks for your support.



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Half term

We just wanted to confirm again with parents that the school will be closed as normal over half term.

Transition Work For Year 4

We are very conscious of the need to try to address the transition needs of Year 4 pupils, despite the challenging circumstances. We are keeping in close contact with the other FARM schools and I can pass on that Alameda is currently working on a transition flow chart, with the dates for transition events and we are hoping that we will be able to pass this onto Y4 parents and children, either tomorrow or early next week.

Virtual Lessons Online

Some parents have asked whether we will be switching to delivering all or some of our Home Learning to a 'virtual lesson format'.

We have reservations about the suitability of live online lesson delivery to large groups of young children at home. In addition, the considerable amount of time it would take to prepare and deliver such lessons would be difficult to manage in relation to all the other tasks the school is involved in, including the immense amount of preparatory work for the return to school of certain year groups, that is discussed below..

We are trying to include appropriate online content in the home learning packs we are sending home and we are making a great effort to ensure that the home learning material is as varied and accessible as possible.

Future Developments

You will no doubt be aware that the Government has announced that schools plan to reopen in some form from 1st June for preschool, reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils **if the government thinks it is safe at that time**.

With this week's 'Keeping In Touch' you will also find another letter about the changes we are currently planning for from the 1st June. We have been liaising closely with the other FARM schools, sharing our thinking and discussing the formulation of common approaches and will write to you next week with more details.

Thank you in advance for your support and patience!

That's all for now, I hope these weekly updates continue to be useful and that all of you remain well and in good spirits.

Take care everyone.

Adam Campbell
Headteacher