

19th June 2020



Dear Parents,

We have been thrilled with our **'Home Heroes'** this week - our children learning at home to keep our community safe. What a lot of hard work they have all put in! Well done, all of you! Thank you to all of the adults supporting this learning and for working out how to use the IT. We know you are constantly juggling your care and work commitments with your new 'teacher' roles, to enable the children to keep moving forward - it is not easy. We thank you all.

Mrs Kersey and I have really enjoyed our phone calls home recently. It is so good to hear your voices and to connect with you all once again, even if just over the phone! We love to chat to you all; it keeps us connected - as do all of the wonderful photos of you on Facebook or the Classroom stream. More of this later!

As always, we have reflected on how things are going as a staff, and we have also considered feedback from children and parents, both at school and at home. Naturally, we are constantly seeking to improve things further - especially for our Home Heroes. We propose the following:

1. **Use of Google Stream.** Going forward, now that most families are confident with 'handing in' work on the Classwork tab, we would like Google Stream to be for the children. We would like to have photos on this page of the children's learning outcomes from the Themed Week activities (it's Community Week next week) and from any other lovely things the children have been enjoying at home that they might want their peers and teachers at school to know about. For example, gardening, a special walk, any mini beasts they have found, any special pictures they have made, cycling marathons, a snuggly place they have found to read a book at home etc. The EYFS children will post their 'learning through play' activity outcomes in the Otters Stream to share. A positive explanation from parents (or from the children themselves) about the story behind the photograph would be lovely - similar to how we use Facebook.
2. **'Handing in' Assignments on Google Classwork.** Please do not post English and Maths tasks onto the stream, or email them to us or 'share' google docs with us. Please 'hand in' the tasks set on the Classwork tab - follow these instructions if you are not sure:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9rWfgFVAEg>

Using this feature of the Classwork tab, the children have the opportunity to make a comment for the whole class or privately to their teacher about the learning. Mrs Kersey, Miss Lloyd, Mrs McKnight and I also have the opportunity to respond privately to each child. This will prove especially useful as we gently move



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TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE

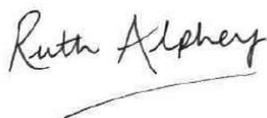
forward even further, as it will allow us to give targeted feedback to individual children, based on their next steps.

3. **Reading books at home.** Several families learning from home have asked if they can borrow reading books (as opposed to just enjoying the vast array of online books available for free - see <https://dunsford-lap.co.uk/parents/learning-at-home/> for links to several sources of quality reading material). For families who are shielding, so might be at home for some time yet, we have put together small packs of reading books to support learning at home. For the other children learning at home, we would be able to put together similar bundles to pass through the gate to you to keep until September. Obviously books need to be quarantined once moved from location to location, so we cannot have the usual flexible offer of books coming in and out of school. We also can't let you on site to use the library. But do get in touch if you would like to borrow a small set of reading books to enjoy at home. Please don't lose them - we need them all back in September! NB we are not offering this to children currently at school - they have access to the library here for their daily reading sessions on site.
4. **Exercise books.** A couple of families have asked for a new exercise book for these last four weeks of term. We could get one to you should you want this - please get in touch if you do.

Finally, next week is **Community Week**, planned for us all by Mrs Kersey. Many of the activities directly support the wonderful fundraising and community-strengthening efforts of our marvellous PTFA. Please take note of where to post things, but do get involved and help make the Dunsford Show 2020 a big success!

As always, if you have any queries, comments or concerns, do please get in touch: via email to dunsford@lapsw.org is the best method.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Alpey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Ruth Alpey,
Head of Academy