

Earls Barton Primary School

Broad Street
Earls Barton
Northampton
NN6 0ND

Telephone:
Website:
Headteacher:

01604 810371
www.earlsbartonprimary.org.uk
Mr D Ribbins



Self – belief

Honesty

Respect

Excellence

Kindness

April 20th 2020

Dear Parent,

May I welcome you to the summer term here at EBPS. I do hope that you and your families managed to get some rest and quality time together over the Easter period.

The situation we all find ourselves in is genuinely unprecedented. What I have learnt is how wonderful people can be in supporting family members, friends and neighbours. I read a slogan that I rather cared for which is 'Further apart – closer together.' I think this is very pertinent given what has been happening at EBPS, in the village and the surrounding areas.

We have all missed the children and our interaction with you as parents. The communication flow between school and home has been really positive and has managed to keep spirits up – thank you for this. In particular I have loved the photos of the children learning at home and taking part in the EBPS 30 day challenge. We are all looking forward to having a good look at their Learning Journals too to see what they have been studying at home. The BBC and the Oak National Trust have just released a wide range of learning materials. We will be contacting you about this shortly.

I have been immensely proud of the on going efforts and willingness of everyone in our wonderful school. Staff and children have gone about their business with a smile on their faces and cheerfulness that belies the predicament that we find ourselves in. As you know there is still no clear indication as to when schools will reopen. I suspect it will be a phased operation when it does happen. By the time we reopen the school will have been closed for many weeks and I want to make sure that we are fully prepared to reopen; to enable this I will ask staff to come into school to make sure everything is in place to 'reboot' the school. I will of course confirm dates with you when I know more. Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education has said that schools will be closed at least for three more weeks and that a 'proper period of notice' will be given so that schools can make preparations to reopen.

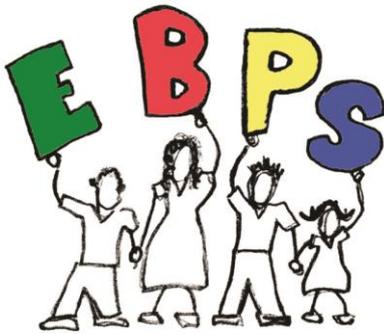
In the meantime school continues to be staffed with members of the teaching, support, administration, pastoral and premises teams. If you need to contact us please do so via the usual channels but do please be mindful that that we have a much reduced team in school.

I am in continuous contact with Mr Nick Chapman (Chair of Governors), the Local Authority and Head Teachers in other schools and the DfE to make sure that we are fully informed of developments as they occur.

During this summer term you will receive your child's end of year report and I wanted to give some additional information about this given the extraordinary events of the year.

Closing schools has had an obvious impact on the learning, attainment and progress that the children have made this year. The government cancelled all formal summer term testing in both primary and secondary schools in England this year. This means there are no Phonic Screen Tests in Year 1 or SAT's in Year 2 to report on. Further, the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) for our Year 4 children did not take place nor did the Key Stage 2 SAT's for year 6 children. As a result there will be no school performance measures published by the government at the end of the school year.





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What we can report on is the effort and attainment the children made at the time the school closed, we may be able to include any attainment and progress made after, or if, we reopen later this term. Your child's report will be based around the assessments made by the children's class teacher (this will include assessments of the Good Level of Development made by the children in the Early Years).

The correlation between teacher assessment and the data from summative assessments like SAT's is typically very strong. However, it is not validated data and inevitably there will be a difference. This is a similar position to teacher assessments or 'Non Exam Assessments' made in secondary schools replacing GCSE exams results.

If you would like to discuss anything about your child's report can you please contact their class teacher in the first instance via the school office as per normal after we reopen.

We look forward to welcoming parents and their children who join us next year. Letters have been sent out to parents whose children will be joining our Early Years classes in September. Arrangements are also in place for our Year 6 children to spend time in their secondary schools. Provisional dates have been made for both groups and we will update you when we know more.

There is no new news about the Year 6 trip to Swanage. It is unclear whether this trip can go ahead and if it can not go ahead we will act to secure refunds for parents. As per usual I will update you when I hear more.

I am working on two policies which need updating. These are the Behaviour Policy and School Uniform Policy. Once these have been approved by the governors they will be made available to you via our web site. Could I ask at this very early stage that when the time comes to buy your child's uniform for next year that you read the policy and pay particular attention to the section about footwear. Only black polishable school shoes should be worn in school. Trainers are fine for PE lessons but ***please do not buy boots!***

In closing I want to thank you again for all of your very kind messages of support. I hope that you and your families stay well and keep safe.

Very best wishes,

Mr. D. Ribbins

DSR

