



**Green Lane, Coventry CV3 6EJ**

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**Headteacher:** Mrs. Sarah Bracken

Dear All,

I hope that you are all keeping well and are managing to adapt to your new daily routines in these very unusual times.

We have a dedicated team of staff, here at Finham, who are coming into school on a daily rota to care for our children of key workers. Teachers, who are working from home, are working hard to prepare meaningful home learning opportunities for your children, in line with our curriculum, and they have also written your children's school reports. They are really pleased and proud to see so many children uploading their learning onto Frog and are able to send comments back to the children. It helps us all keep connected. Our office staff are working from home to keep finances, etc going. Our Teaching Assistants and Nursery Nurses are doing a range of online courses and helping to support learning at home and in school.

However, it is important to also recognise that the staff team at Finham Primary are also facing their own personal challenges at this time, and are dealing with a range of COVID-19 related issues as you are, including: managing their own physical and emotional health; coping with bereavement and illness; organising shopping and medications; caring for elderly parents, as well as trying to juggle working from home with home schooling of their own children.

This week, I came across the NHS COVID '19 Principles for Remote Working' and the sentiment that "we are not working from home, we are at home, during a crisis, trying to work" resonated with me. It is this sentiment that underpins the supportive approach we are currently taking with our pupils whilst providing a remote education. We urge all pupils and parents to remember that the situation we find ourselves in is not normal and prioritising physical, mental and emotional health is of the utmost importance at this time. It is important to recognise that we are all in this together and we are all doing our best.



**A school built on the 5 core values of Teamwork, Respect, Integrity, Enjoyment and Discipline!**



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Home Learning, as I have mentioned in my previous newsletters to you all, we fully appreciate can be an additional strain, especially during this time. We know that many of you are also working from home, you might have more than one child or you might have limited access to technology. We do take this into consideration when planning. We have tried to develop what we believe is a good and workable home learning offer; we recognise that we don't have all the answers. However, we have done our utmost to ensure that all learning set is accessible, manageable, fun and creative and that you, as parents, understand it.

It has been lovely to receive so much positive feedback on the home learning opportunities for our children. Only a couple of parents across the whole school have asked about the possibility of the school having interactive lessons, for example, using Zoom. Along with the majority of other primary schools and especially those in our local area, we have made the decision not to offer 'face-to-face' online teaching, including video calling and using virtual classrooms. This decision has been made for several reasons, most importantly the following: video streaming requires all students in every household to be online, separately but simultaneously, for long periods during the normal school day. Not all of our families have the hardware, and/or a sufficiently reliable internet connection to enable this to happen, nor do they have enough hardware for all their children to be online simultaneously. The above technology requirements also apply to our staff team. Also, even if sufficient numbers of staff are well at any one time, many staff are also in a position whereby they are managing their teaching load alongside their own family commitments during normal working hours.



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There are also numerous issues relating to safeguarding and online learning. To give just one example, official guidelines recommend that ideally any streamed lessons should be delivered in teams of at least two staff. It is difficult to consider how this would be feasible for us, even at a limited level, in any circumstances. Safeguarding for our children remains our highest priority and there are now growing reports of Zoom being hacked. Other platforms such as WhatsApp live calls are just not acceptable for a school situation. We are happy that using Frog provides a safe place for teachers and children to be in contact about their learning. It is also not realistic to recreate a classroom experience for 30 children via video streaming. There is little scope for engagement, monitoring or meaningful interaction, all of which severely curtails the learning experience for children involved.

### **What To Do If Your Child Finishes The Work Set For The Day**

If your child finishes their English, Maths and Foundation subject work for the day there are other activities they can do:

- Read for 30 minutes
- Practice their spellings for 10 minutes
- Y2-6 can practice multiplication tables for 15 mins every day • Reception and Y1 can do the daily DFE phonics lesson
- Reception can replay phonics videos
- Go onto BBC Bitesize and do some of the year group activities
- Log onto Oak National Academy – a website set up by the government – go onto the right year group and watch some recorded lessons – there are lessons on there every day for lots of subjects
- Do Joe Wicks PE lesson or some other form of exercise daily for about 30 mins

Remember too, that at school, your child has playtimes and an hour for lunch. As well as all of these things – your child can do extra creative activities, cook, play board games, help with chores in the house such as setting the table, empty the bins, pair the socks, hang out washing, Hoover etc They can play role play games, make phone calls to grandparents, FaceTime friends, weed or plant seeds.



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As you will probably be aware, earlier this week the government published guidance about schools planning to welcome more children back, starting with Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

The guidance for this to begin is, as soon as it is safe, but this is only if certain conditions are met (e.g. concerning health data and the current "R" value). The government will be reviewing the data and will also be issuing schools with further guidance.

At this time, we are working very hard, with the MAT, the Local Authority and following Government advice to plan how we might be able to follow this guidance to welcome back more children, whilst ensuring safety is the top priority.

We appreciate you will have lots of questions and concerns. We are working on this as quickly as we can to put the best possible plans in place and to provide you with the information you need. Please can we ask you to be patient with us until we can give you more information.

We have sent home a Google Doc to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, asking you to let us know if you are likely to take up an offer of a place for your child in school if and when it opens. Whilst we know your response can only be based on the information we will be able to provide at this point, it will be a really helpful first step for us with our planning.

Thank you so much for your continued support and understanding, it is very much appreciated.

Have a lovely weekend in the sunshine,

Sarah Bracken  
Head Teacher



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