



Queen Eleanor's Church of England Junior School
*An Academy in the Good Shepherd Trust**
Queen Eleanor's Road, Onslow Village, Guildford, GU2 7SD
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Tel: 01483 561323



"A caring, supportive community, grounded in a Christian ethos, where children are inspired to explore their potential and develop skills for life."

Head of School: Jo Davies
Executive Head Teacher: Louise Johnson

16th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all well. Following some feedback we have been receiving this week regarding home schooling, I thought it would be a good time to write to you all.

As a school, we understand the frustrations arising from the current arrangements in place nationally for home learning. The staff have worked tirelessly and have tried very hard to cater to the needs of all children, as much as possible, and to provide support to families at home.

The staff have worked and continue to work extremely hard and are coping amazingly during this pandemic. They have been creating home learning activities, which do not just rely on computers, but are interesting for the children and give you all some choice. They have been replying to emails, messages on Dojo and commenting on work, photographs and videos the children have sent in. Many of them have been working in school with the Key Worker children, supporting families who have had significant challenges during Lockdown and working alongside the Senior Leadership Team to plan for the return of Year 6. For some of the staff, they have had their own children at home, so they have been parents just like you. Others have had to cope with different personal situations that have been caused by the pandemic and some have been supporting members of family and friends who are extremely clinically vulnerable. Therefore, for some teachers, it was not practical or sustainable to be leading video lessons and I am sure that you will appreciate that I have a duty of care to them as well as your children.

At the start of the lockdown period, none of us had any idea how long the situation would continue for and we have had many discussions about the most suitable ways to continue supporting our families with home learning on an ongoing basis. We are very mindful that for children at home, 11 weeks without face to face communication with school is a very tough ask and one that needs a review at this current time - especially with the majority of the teaching staff now working full time in school.

The government has recognised the difficulties in individual schools being able to address all of these issues and this is why they have provided a myriad of resources, including an 'online classroom' via Oak National Academy, filled with high quality, hour-long online lessons with resources, that are updated each week.



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We have taken the decision not to provide live teaching at this time, but to provide, through Dojo, Monday motivation videos/Zoom meetings and pre-recorded English and Mathematics support videos. Staff will also continue to use Dojo to upload challenges and communicate with you and the children. We encourage the children to continue sending their work, pictures and videos to their class teacher. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher at any time via the Dojo site/ Office inbox if you would like to schedule a more personalised discussion over the phone - they are happy to call and speak to you and also to your child if this would help. We are aware that other local schools are offering other teaching and learning platforms but all schools are different and we are attempting to find the best possible level of education that we can provide.

We are still planning to go ahead with Class Zoom assemblies led by the Senior Leadership Team but before sending out the final details it is important to us that we get these right.

Some families have commented on the formatting of the work found in the weekly packs. As many of the documents have been produced using Microsoft Word downloading them onto a laptop or computer is advised. However going forward we have made the decision to PDF the documents in the hope that formatting will no longer be a problem.

We are very aware that many families and children have been finding this situation stressful and we have not wanted to put any pressure on families to engage on any particular day and feel pressured to undertake a certain amount or type of home learning. Families need to find a way that works for them and their situation through this pandemic without any additional stress. Therefore, early into the Lockdown, we made class timetables available on the school website so that families could follow this should they wish, however many families have said that they prefer a more flexible approach.

I hope that these new arrangements will be of benefit to you and your children and we will continue to do our best to continue to help the children at this time. Thank you to all of you who have contacted us with feedback and to offer your thanks and support.

Kind regards

Mrs Davies