

**Message from Mr. Pavey**

I have had a wonderful day today as I have spent it with the teachers, who have shared the work that your children have been doing on-line. It was lovely to see how much the children who have been sharing their work have enjoyed this new approach to learning. One of the main principles of using Dojo and Teams is to enable teachers to feedback to children about their learning. I know as a parent myself that if I ask my daughters to do some school work, they will do everything in their power to avoid it; as soon as their teacher tells them, they are on to it straight away because they know their teacher will check the work and make a comment. I hope that the children have enjoyed receiving comments back from their teachers.

I know that, as with anything new, there have been some parents/carers who have found getting the grips with the technology quite challenging but I am delighted to say that the vast majority of children (with parental help) have accessed the learning. Staff have been calling families where there appears to be some difficulties logging on and most issues are now resolved. I want to thank the teachers for their efforts this week in learning a new skill (using Dojo or Teams) – parents, if you think it has been challenging for you, just ask your child's class teacher how hard it has been for them! I am hoping that we are all beginning to see the potential of the systems and if nothing more, it is enabling us to connect with each other a little more.

Please continue to contact your child's class teacher if you are having difficulties or to just share your thoughts about the learning. Each day, new issues arise and it is actually by resolving these issues, we learn more about the system and are able to use them better.

No online learning tool will ever beat children learning in the classroom and we have spent a lot of time this week making preparations to the classrooms so that they are ready for the children returning. We have had responses from parents/carers of Year 6 children who will be returning to school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June and we will be contacting those parents who want their child to return during next week to confirm arrangements. We will also be contacting the Year 1 parents to see who will be returning in Year 1 from 22<sup>nd</sup> June. We will contact Reception parents the week after that. I would like to remind everyone that we are desperate to have the children back to school but we must do this safely. I am sure that some of you will be wondering about the other year groups but we simply don't have any further information about this and we will let you know as soon as we do.

I am a little concerned about the rising number of children accessing the Key Worker Childcare. Please remember that this is only to be used if there is **absolutely no alternative** child care for your child other than in school. It should also only be used for the time you are actually at work so children can arrive and leave at any point during the day. If the numbers become too great, we may have to reject places. I am fully aware that the children might be getting bored at home but the school childcare is not an option for relieving the boredom. We will also be taking the temperatures of all children attending Childcare, with a 'non-contact' thermometer, from Monday as an additional safeguarding measure.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend and please let your child know that I am missing them a great deal and can't wait until the school is filled with their laughter again!

Remember if you need anything, please email: [vaneroadparents@durhamlearning.net](mailto:vaneroadparents@durhamlearning.net)