



Friday 27th March 2020

Good morning

What a brilliant community we have!

This week, I'm sure has been such an adaption to the way in which you all live your lives. However, this hasn't stopped you all doing your utter most to ensure your child has had a flexible learning week. The messages and emails that I am receiving daily from you are so inspiring and motivating for all of us. Thank you so much for embracing the situation we find ourselves in.



Support for our children

Your child's Class Teacher will continue to send you a **learning plan every Monday** with the suggested timetable. Please do ensure you check that you have received this. If you don't, please do email me at Headteacher@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk to ensure your email is correctly inputted on our school email system. Please do use the suggested activities for your child. Working through the work packs too quickly will mean that your child will run out of these, so please do try and follow these suggestions where possible.

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs T Swinburne

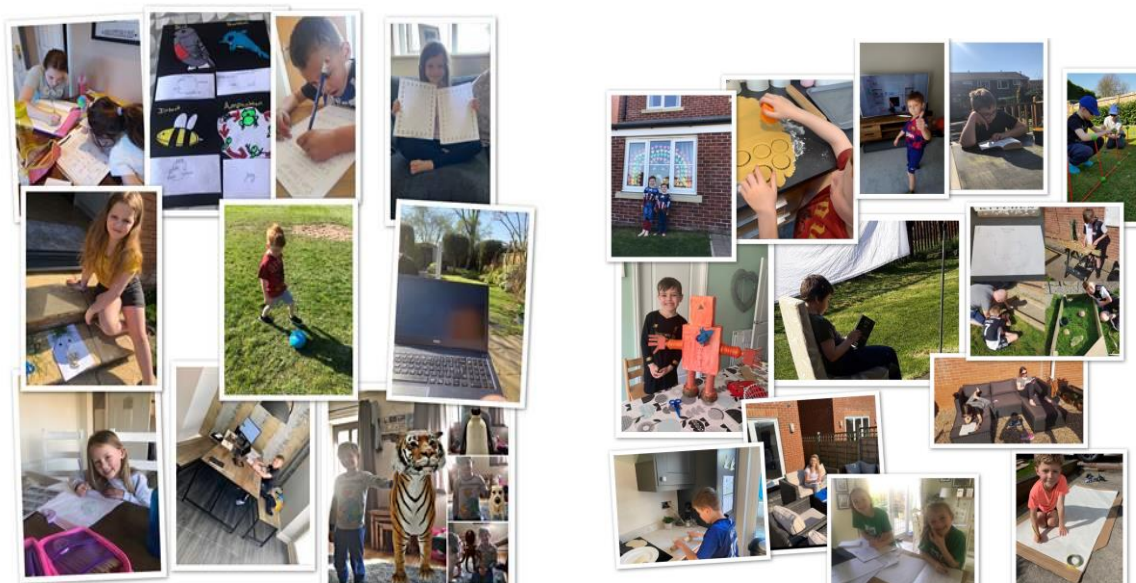
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Staying connected

Now that we are finding our way through the fog, we are looking at as many ways as possible to stay connected. This is so important to us right now and so important for our children. Please do encourage your children to join in with the class blogs for Year 4, 5 & 6. Tapestry is working really well for Reception class and I know that Mrs Burrows is super impressed with the contributions she is receiving.

To enable even more connection, we have also now re-setup our YouTube channel. Teachers will use this for reading stories, introducing an aspect of learning or to verbally communicate something to you all. Your Class Teacher will let you know if they have posted something on here.



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Our children’s mental health is crucial right now

Please see below some useful tips on how to approach the next couple of weeks with your child. Our children’s mental health and well-being has never been so important. The change in routines is so hard for all of you.

Staying Connected With Our Children

Now is the time to stay close to our children. They need to feel us beside them so they don't feel as worried as they are. We need to be honest with them and let them know that good people from around the world are working very hard to keep them safe and healthy. Our children will believe us, we love them deeply.

Be Honest
COVID-19 is a sickness like a cold. Some people will get it. Maybe someone in our family might get sick. We are all a little bit scared. Being scared is a step that we are concentrating on being safe. There are really good people like doctors who know what to do. They are helping to figure it out.

Validate Their Feelings
I know I might look worried sometimes. Mums or dads get worried too, just like children. I know it can make you feel scared. But I am ok. It is ok to be feeling scared or worried or whatever you are feeling right now. You can share that with me whenever you need to.

Acknowledge Day to Day Disruptions
Even if school and your after school activities stop for a while, they will start up again. How about we think about some ways of doing versions of these things together at home if we need to?

Remind Them
I love you and that is one thing that will never change.

Look to History
There have been sicknesses like this before. And they have stopped. Clever people from around the world have worked them out together. The scientists are doing this right now with this one.

Remain Available
You can talk with me whenever you need to. I will answer any questions you have. If I don't know the answers, I will find out and then I will tell you.

Have fun
Share some time with your children that is just for them, and let them lead the play.
Let's do some things that you like to do.

Create some quiet time
Find a regular time where you can just be still with children. Stroke their hair. Watch a favourite show on TV. Listen to music together. Let them decide if they want to talk. Be present with them. Enjoy it.

Here are some ways that parents and carers can share connection, comfort and care with their children right now.

1 more week of term time, then it is the Easter break for 2 weeks

Our Class Teachers will send their learning plan out to you on **Monday morning at 9am** and then on **Friday of next week they will send you all some fun Easter plans**. We recognise that it won't be a 'normal' Easter as such but want to ensure you are given some fun ideas of what they can do.

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We are also excited to launch our Easter Egg decorating competition. See below:

**EASTER EGG
DECORATING
COMPETITION**

Join in our Easter Competition!

Use all of your wonderful Art and Creativity skills to create your entry using a hard-boiled egg.

Please Tweet all entries on Friday 10th April using #JCAEaster in your post for your chance of winning the prize for your class.

The winner from each class will be announced on Sunday 12th April.

#JCAEaster

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Please do look after yourselves at this unprecedented time. Please continue to tweet on our twitter feed @JCAWakfield. This is helping our whole community so much. Let's keep the momentum going. The 'magic' of JCA is sparkling through! Thank you so much everyone for the fantastic support.

Please stay safe and look after yourselves.

With kind regards,

Mrs. T Swinburne

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