

Paddock Wood Primary Academy, Friday 3 April 2020

Good morning

I hope everyone is managing to keep safe and well. Technically, the Easter holiday has started and this marks a change in the way our teachers will be leading learning over the next two weeks. While staff would normally take a break, in the current climate all of our colleagues have volunteered to maintain (albeit less frequent) contact with children online and to suggest more alternative challenges and activities for the 'holiday' period.

As you are aware, the Trust sought to gather opinion from families and from teachers over the past week about how successful our introduction to online learning has been, and how it could be improved. It has been very endearing to read each group's very positive comments of the other; with 90% and 95% respectively agreeing or strongly agreeing with the effectiveness of our platform. In this context we received some really valuable advice about how we can improve.

Our staff took a deliberate decision to maintain paper-based learning for the first two weeks (until the Easter break), both for familiarity/continuity and to allow time for the online platform to become established. It is a real measure of the dedication and professionalism of our whole-staff team that at an already busy time when we had to prepare the school for closure, our teachers and TAs immersed themselves in 'crash-course' Dojo training, which they themselves then delivered to children. I am especially grateful to Dan Bull from the Trust IT team for leading this.

I very much appreciate that every family has had its own challenges to overcome over the past two weeks and recognise that some children have not been able to engage with ClassDojo yet. This is not a problem, but I would strongly encourage that families do connect when they can.

Signing up to ClassDojo is simple and free. If you received an invitation, click accept and it will guide you through. If not, visit the website [www.classdojo.com](http://www.classdojo.com) and click sign up. Follow the instructions to connect with Paddock Wood Primary. This guide can help with any other questions: <https://classdojo.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/categories/200185365-For-parents>. Otherwise please email [enquiries@paddockwoodprimaryacademy.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@paddockwoodprimaryacademy.org.uk) for help.

Specific comments and suggestions from the surveys:

You said	We did
Instructions on uploading photos would be useful for parents	This article gives step by step instructions for uploading to the portfolios: <a href="https://classdojo.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360022857031-How-to-Post-to-a-Student-Portfolio#ios">https://classdojo.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360022857031-How-to-Post-to-a-Student-Portfolio#ios</a>
New sounds to learn would be great for EYFS and Y1	Teachers in these two year groups will take the lead on this
It would be good to receive all the learning in the morning or the night before	Our teachers have pledged a commitment to making sure learning activities are online by 9am wherever possible
For devices without Word can you send screenshots or photos of the learning tasks?	Yes
Can you create more paper learning packs?	Yes, this would be possible subject to numbers (volume of printing and cost of postage) - please request via <a href="mailto:enquiries@paddockwoodprimaryacademy.org.uk">enquiries@paddockwoodprimaryacademy.org.uk</a>
More online assemblies would be good	Our teachers have committed to making this happen wherever possible, and certainly to a Friday celebration assembly
Can you please clarify how much learning has to be done and when?	This will vary for different families at different times, but when online learning resumes after the holiday, teachers have committed to sharing a table of planned learning for the week ahead each Monday morning

Separately, our academy remains open, and will be open right through the Easter holiday, for children from key worker families. I am, again, very grateful and appreciative of our colleagues who have volunteered to staff this.

I know that teachers plan to write more at the start of next term, to describe in more detail how online learning will work for different year groups now that learning packs are finished.

In the meantime I wish everyone well, and please do stay safe,  
Scott