

PROPELLER ACADEMY TRUST  
Fitzwaryn

*'Through learning to learn, pupils will access society'*

Headteacher:  
MRS. S CONEBOY B.Ed.(Hons.)

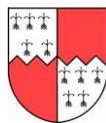
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24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents,

Firstly, and most importantly, I do hope that you and your families are all well.

I am sure by now that you will have seen the most recent announcement that was made by the Prime Minister yesterday evening. He gave very clear guidance on the next steps that need to be taken nationwide to stop the spread of the virus. I am sure that you will be considering these and thinking of ways that you need to adjust your lives for the next few weeks.

I am very grateful to those of you who have followed the guidance and decided to keep your child at home - this is the safest place for children to be.

I would like to reiterate the message that I sent on Friday regarding the situation at school:

**If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**

In the new government guidance on vulnerable people and young people, it clearly states that 'many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home'

We have made school as safe as it possibly can be, but due to the nature of the school environment and the needs of the children, I am sure you can appreciate that we can no longer guarantee the social distancing that the government is seeking for 100% of the time for children or staff.

**The government is very clear that all the measures that are being put in place are to stop the spread of the virus and we must play our part in this.**

On Monday, we had several pupils come to school who we deemed could be supported at home so thank you to those parents who came to collect children.



**Registered Office:** Fitzwaryn School, Denchworth Road, Wantage, Oxon OX12 9ET  
**Tel:** 01235 764504 **Website:** [www.pract.org.uk](http://www.pract.org.uk)  
**Corporation Registration No.** 8340120

If we think it reasonable for your child to remain at school following a risk assessment we will be offering a 'reduced service'; essentially, school has been closed and we are being asked to provide childcare.

What will this look like? Your child may move classroom, be with different children and their usual timetable is likely to change. There is also no guarantee that your child will be taught by a qualified teacher whilst at school. However, we will try our very best to offer a broad and balanced set of activities, including some subject specific activities, physical activities and creative activities. We will also endeavour to use all the facilities on offer to us on site especially our outside areas in the lovely weather! Inevitably, plans will change daily; we will try our very best to let you know what the situation is and prepare your child for any changes that may occur.

To keep all staff as safe as possible, we are now running a staff rota which means that not all staff will be in each day. Should you need to contact your class teacher, please do so by emailing the school office and your message will be passed on. If your message is more urgent, please email me and I will do my best to respond quickly: [head.7027@fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.7027@fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk)

#### Home Learning

We have set up a dedicated 'Home Learning' link on the website and we will be adding to this information as much as possible over the coming weeks.

Should you not have access to the resources you need to complete the home learning activities, do let us know and we will see what we can do.

#### EHCP reviews

We are still working out what the best way is for carrying out the reviews – I will let you know once I have more information to share.

#### Changes in circumstances

I would appreciate it if you could let me know if your child or a member of your family is ill with the virus. It is essential that we follow PHE guidelines when there is a known case. Currently, there are still no confirmed cases as far as I know.

#### Keeping the Fitzwaryn Community Strong!

Given the positive messages that you are sending into the school, it is evident that you are keen to keep the Fitzwaryn community strong during this period of uncertainty. It is important that we stay together as a community and support each other by keeping in touch. Therefore, when we come back together, hopefully soon, we will be in a better position to carry on as we were.

As you can no doubt imagine, the Fitzwaryn@50 Fete will now sadly have to be cancelled – the Friends committee will no doubt plan for an alternative event sometime in the future. Thank you to everyone who offered to help or had begun gathering prizes and items for the stalls.

#### Communication with parents

Letters that are sent out will be posted on the website on the same day as far as possible. If you know of a family that does not have access to school information and can help them out, please do so. We will have limited availability to post anything.

### Telephone catch up

From next week, during term time, I will be asking a member of the staff team to phone you on a weekly basis to see how things are going – do not worry if it is not a school phone line – we have school mobile numbers that may need to be used. I am afraid that I am unable to say which day of the week the phone call will take place and which member of staff will be phoning as from now on, all teaching staff are not expected to be in to school every day.

Don't worry – this is not a check to see how much homework has been done!! Although it would be good to hear if you have managed some!

### Parent Mail

Some of you are not signed up to Parentmail – if you would like to be signed up, please email into the office address [office.7027@fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.7027@fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk)

We are also investigating a text messaging service – we will keep you posted!

### 'Keeping the Fitzwaryn Community Strong' Facebook page

We will set up a dedicated 'Keeping the Fitzwaryn Community Strong!' Facebook page for parents; I have asked Clair Taylor our OSLO to be the administrator for this and we will be asking that members follow strict guidelines.

Here you will be able to share some of the activities that you are getting up to at home. Clair will also investigate any community-based projects that may be able to help you in the coming weeks and I know she already has some lovely resources and web links to share.

More details to follow!

Once again, thank you for your support in these ever-changing times.

I will be in touch soon – in the meantime, stay safe and look after each other.

Best wishes

Stephanie

Stephanie Coneboy  
Headteacher  
Fitzwaryn School



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