

Friars Primary School & Nursery

Part of the Portico Academy Trust

Principal - Mr C. McClay

Vice Principal – Mr S. Roche

Constable Way, Shoeburyness, Essex, SS3 9XX

Tel: 01702 294837 Fax: 01702 382820

www.friarsprimary.co.uk

Email: office@friars.southend.sch.uk



PORTICO
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opening doors, unlocking potential

CEO – Mrs C. Woolf

Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Following on from yesterday's message I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to all of the children that have joined our lessons over the last two days. It has been great to see so many of them online, engaging in their learning and enjoying the interactions with their teachers. Thanks also to you as parents and carers for helping to support the children to login, participate and stay focused... we know from experience of home learning with our own children, that this is not always easy to do.

A few parents have asked how to support their children to record comments on their Seesaw work. This can be completed by clicking on the 'Add Response' button and then selecting the method requested by the teacher. For more information, please see the more detailed remote learning parent's guide sent out on Monday 4th January.

We are aware that sometimes our own internet connection may be put under great pressure, especially when the children in school are also accessing the online learning at the same time. This is causing occasional stilted or stuttering in the videos for which we apologise. We are working with our IT support to rectify these issues and to improve our connectivity, but would ask you to bear with us when this happens.

You may also find that home internet connections will periodically freeze, drop out, buffer etc. Again we would ask for your patience and acceptance that you can only do what you can around these issues.

If you do experience any technology problems aside of the above, please complete our technology survey using the link or QR code below.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=itiMSBXflk2j9Bz-n-ErI0bCB-ga8xlLqdx3lRe4LsBUMjFNQ1JNUTcxRUE2NUo5U0oxV1VFVU0zTy4u>



If for any reason you do find that the online learning is disrupted and you want the children to continue their learning, the CBBC channel have recently announced that they have launched educational programmes for 3 hours every day starting at 9am.

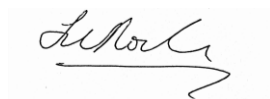
We fully appreciate that our younger children especially, need parental support to login and join the learning. However, please can you bear in mind that the lesson is for the children to participate in and that the live chat function on MS Teams, is for the **children only** to interact with their teacher should they have any questions or need support. We will obviously listen to and respect all feedback received from parents/carers but unless it is extremely urgent, we would greatly appreciate it if you could send feedback to the teacher directly using the year group email, rather than raising it in a public forum that is designed for the children to use. Mr McClay and I will also be available to talk through any other issues you may have.

Finally, this leads me to commend our fantastic staff here at Friars. Since the announcement that we would only be reopening to the vulnerable or critical worker children, our support staff have worked extremely hard to set up and run our provision offer for those children eligible to still attend school. Additionally, in just five days from receiving the original notification, our teachers worked tirelessly in their own time and throughout the New Year period to get our home learning offer up and running. It is certainly not easy to produce mixed ability lessons designed for every child to access and it has involved taking on board new systems, learning new technology and developing their own confidence in this completely new way of working. They have done an amazing job!

Therefore, I would respectfully ask, that if you do feel the need to give us feedback on the home learning, please bear in mind that we have only been working this way for two (generally very successful) days. All of our team are learning and adapting as much as everybody else to these times that we find ourselves in.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Roche', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr. S. Roche
Vice Principal