



Ellistown Primary School

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Friday 22nd February

INTRODUCING FEEL GOOD FRIDAY!!

Over the last few weeks we have been so impressed with all of the hard work going on at home (both children and adults) None of you signed up to be your child's fulltime class teacher and yet you've just got on with it and the children have been amazing! I love popping my head onto Seesaw and Tapestry and seeing what they've been up to. As I've said before... you all deserve a medal!

The pastoral team and I have been busy making phone calls, checking in with families to see how we can help. If you have not yet received a phone call, you should have had a missed call notification on your phone and we will of course keep trying. Do however contact school in the meantime if you need us. After every phone call we are all full of admiration for what you are managing to achieve whilst trying to juggle other responsibilities. This has caused us to consider what we can do to try and alleviate some of the stress at home.

Unfortunately, the expectations for remote schooling are set by the DfE and we are not permitted to alter these. The requirement to complete 3 hours of work in KS1 and 4 hrs in KS2 is for many families a very tall order indeed - leaving parents and children feeling they have failed before they have begun. Therefore, we have decided (with the support of the governing body) to alter the school week in order to allow families some catch up time and children time away from the screen. Many parents talk about the guilt that they feel that they are struggling to complete the minimum expected work each day. We hope that this will alleviate this, although no Ellistown parent should ever feel guilty! We are all doing the best we can in the situation we find ourselves! Home school is not like school - it's a million times harder. I speak from experience here!

So... **from Friday 29th January Fridays will be catch up day.** An opportunity for some families to catch up and for those children who have already completed their work- to enjoy some other activities and where possible some time away from the screen. Hopefully this will act as a carrot for some of our more reluctant home learning children!

It is entirely up to you, but we recommend that Feel good Friday is used in one of the following ways:

- A) If your family is struggling to complete the minimum of all of the English and maths activities set each week - this time might be used to catch up. There will now only be 4 lessons of maths and 4 lessons of English - so this should hopefully be a lot more achievable.
- B) If you are managing to keep on top of the English and maths, but not making it to the other subjects -this will be an opportunity to tackle some of those

C) If you are managing to complete all of the work set Monday to Thursday this will be an opportunity to reward you and your child with some feel good activities (we've attached some suggested activities, but you'll have your own ideas)

The teachers will be working as normal on *Feel Good Friday* and will be available to support with catching up on work and providing guidance with activities that were perhaps missed because they were tricky. Teams meetings will also run as normal on a Friday. We would be very happy to see any photos of the children enjoying the activities they have rewarded themselves with, but equally there is no pressure to send photos in. Please just enjoy!

Finally, a word on deadlines. Work is set each day, as a lot of parents say that they prefer this to receiving all of the work in one go. However, although we are required by the DfE to monitor work completed and to chase up when work isn't completed - our log only shows an overall uptake over the week. Therefore, if it works better for you as a family to have another day as a catch up day (perhaps due to work commitments) please do. Similarly, I know that many of you are taking a day off in the week and working on a Saturday instead. Again, perfectly fine and very sensible. Whatever gets the job done and avoids you tearing out your hair!

I hope that this new plan is helpful and look forward to speaking to some of you soon and finding out how it's going.

Kind Regards

Simone Fellows

(Headteacher)