Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

What a very unusual week it has been for us all. School has been closed, the majority of our staff have been working from home and the majority of our pupils have been at home as well. Keeping your children safely at home is the single most important thing that you can do over the next few weeks as we try to protect everyone within the community.

Week one of ‘home learning’ is now over and we all hope that you have survived. The launch of Class Dojo has been really well received and there have been some fabulous ides and challenges shared across year groups. I have looked at some of the photos and videos that have been posted and it seems that our children, families and staff are finding some really creative, enjoyable and worthwhile ways to learn at home.

Parents and carers, please do not feel overwhelmed by the expectation that you are suddenly your child’s class teacher because you aren’t. Whatever activities you can engage with at home will help to keep your child busy and active and this is our main priority. This is not home-schooling, it is an unprecedented emergency and we are all still making things up as we go along. The most important element is to make sure your child is safe and happy.

Please do not worry that your child will fall behind if someone seems to be doing more than you. Anything that is suggested is revision work or just fun activities that will give your child some focus and purpose. All new learning will be saved for when we return to school. Feel free to ignore all of our suggestions and spend your day building lego, cooking, chatting and playing outside as all of this is valuable learning too.

Children, remember our school values of kindness, resilience, respect, integrity, independence, aspiration and pride. Think about how you can model them every day at home. Remember to ask your families, ‘What can I do to help?’ and please aim to be the best you can be every day at home.

Take care, stay safely with your family and keep well.

Many best wishes to you all. I’m missing you.

Mrs Farnell