



Peafield Lane Academy

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18 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am sure you are aware of the sense of inevitability that the government will instruct schools to close at some point in the near future. As I mentioned in my last letter, we know as much as you do about when this might be; it could be in a few weeks or it could have happened between my writing and your receipt of this letter. My intention here is that Peafield will remain open and functioning as normally as possible for as long as we can.

I'm aware of some other school closures – predominantly secondaries. Where there are a large number of staff absences due to the imposition of the latest self-isolation rules, some schools have not had the supervision capacity to operate safely. Peafield is fortunate to not be in that position.

We are receiving daily advice and updates from the government DfE and we hear that they are developing their own ideas for schools and pupils although nothing has been released to us yet. We don't know if they will provide schools with a complete solution that must be followed, if they will expect schools to develop their own systems or something in-between. Therefore, staff at Peafield Lane have been working hard with our partners at Flying High Trust to create systems that will allow learning to continue in the event that we are instructed to close and there is nothing provided centrally. The system we have developed is not perfect but it serves the purpose of allowing learning to continue and it provides a secure method of communication between teachers and parents and a safe environment in which pupils can access their work.

Tonight, we are having a 'dummy-run' where children have been asked to look on their Dojo's 'Class Story' and complete the short task that has been set. There *will* be teething problems and we would ask that you work together with us to iron them out as we tweak things along the way. Tomorrow we'll tackle any issues that might arise.

Children will need supervised access to the internet. They can use a tablet or laptop – they do not need to be high spec or brand new. **If you do not have internet access at home please let us know as soon as possible.**

The children have been practicing all week and should know exactly how to log into Purple Mash and any other websites they may be sent to. So, even if it sounds confusing to you, my teachers assure me that your children will know exactly how to use each of the systems. The only system we need you to be able to use is *Class Dojo*. If you get stuck – contact your class teacher and they will help you out.

On the next page I've provided an example of a typical day that we have developed alongside our Partner schools in the Trust.

A typical day for a child if school is closed

9:00	10:00 – 11:00	11:00 ← → 2:30	2:30 – 3:15
Daily Work Available on Mash/Class Dojo and Class Website	Class Check-in. Teacher available for online chat	Independent study time. Teacher will periodically respond to dojo and emails	Class Plenary Teacher available for online chat

From 9:00

Log into Class Dojo in the morning. Teachers will have prepared work and have it posted in Dojo's 'class story' by 9am each day. Some of our older children will have their own personal Dojo accounts. Younger children will use the class story only.

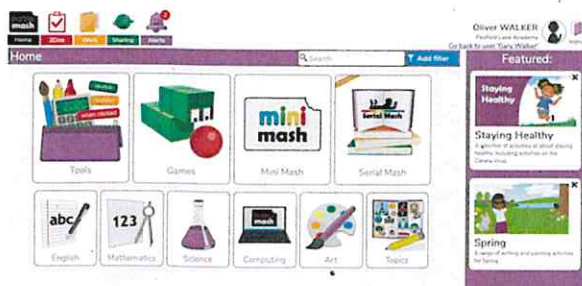
A typical Dojo message might look something like this →

It will include a range of activities with a mixture of online and offline activities. Exercise books will be provided for offline tasks – Please ensure they are well cared for and that standards of writing reflect the pride that children should show in all of their work.

Between 10:00am and 11am

Teachers have been instructed to be sat at their computers ready to receive any questions and provide support for children and parents who have any questions about the work they have been set. Children do not need to log in to the morning 'check-in'; Teachers will be there for you if you need them. You can contact teachers through Dojo and email.

Up until 2:30pm

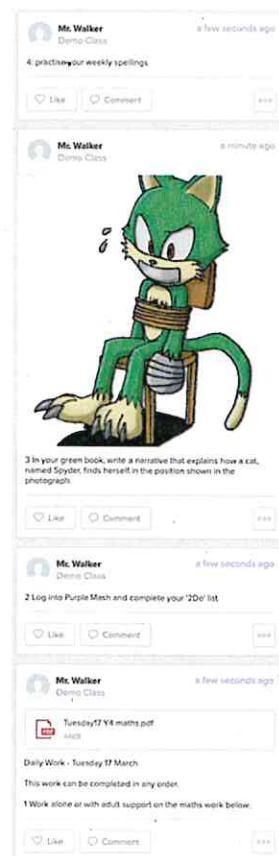


Children continue with their work at their own pace. We are setting work that should last approximately 2 - 3hrs per day which means that if children are working from around 9am through to 2:30 pm they will have 5 ½ hours to complete up to 3 hrs worth of work.

Teachers will continue to check for messages throughout the day but it could be a bit longer between responses as they will have other duties they are carrying out at the same time (including looking after their own children).

2:30 – 3:15pm

This is another period of time when teachers will be timetabled to be at their computers ready to receive emails, Dojos, etc. Teachers will use this time to see which children have been logged into the 'Purple Mash' system. If we haven't heard from a child in a couple of days a senior member of staff will contact you directly to check that all is OK.



It is our intention to keep the 'virtual school' up and running for as long as is necessary. We are committed to continuous communication with you and with our children and so it goes without saying that we will need your support with this. Whilst there will be a reduction in the 'daily work' for children during the Easter holidays, we are still planning to keep lines of communication open.

We understand that for many of you, your children will be spending time with other family members whilst you try to go out to work. Please feel free to share their contact details with us and we will support them in accessing the systems needed to support children's learning. Please understand that it may take a few checks for safeguarding purposes as we cannot simply accept anyone into what is a safe, 'closed system'.

If our staff and their families get ill we will try to provide cover to continue the service as much as we can. We will endeavour to keep you informed throughout.

Other information and updates:

- The Y3/4 residential visit to Sherwood Forest has been cancelled. We are working with YHA and other providers to arrange refunds which will be passed on to you as soon as we can manage this.
- Parents evenings – We are cancelling this term's event and will let you know after Easter when and how we will facilitate parent-teacher consultations. If you have a specific concern or need to talk with your child's teacher, let them know via Dojo and they will arrange a phone call.
- There will be no swimming up until Easter.
- If your child is to be absent from school, please text the school 07786 208896 with the specific reason. It is important that we keep up-to date information for tracking absences through illness, isolation or other reasons.

Finally, and most important – your children are *our* children. That means that from our perspective here at Peafield, we are a family – you included. We want you all to stay safe and to look out for yourselves and for each other.

Best wishes



Gary Walker