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Dear Parent/Carer,

DISTANCE LEARNING DURING SCHOOL CLOSURE

Following the government's announcement to shut all schools in England I would like to update you regarding the arrangements in place for continued learning at Summerhill Academy from Monday 23 March 2020.

We will be closed to the majority of students but providing learning and contact with class teachers via: Class Dojo, the packs which have already been sent home and (from after the Easter holidays) the CLF website <https://clf.uk/>

To support with distance learning and to help your children feel a sense of connection with school, we have decided to keep a routine that closely matches the school day via Class Dojo. If you have not yet signed up to Class Dojo we strongly recommend you do so. Please email info@sa.cabot.ac.uk if you need assistance with this.

Monday to Friday Class Dojo distance learning routine:

9am The teacher will log onto Class Dojo to say good morning and remind the children of the work set for the morning

9am -12pm The teacher will also be available to answer any questions about the learning through the comments section or the direct messaging section of Class Dojo.

1:30pm The teacher will log onto Class Dojo to say good afternoon to the children and remind them of the work set for the afternoon

1:30-3:00pm The teacher will be available to answer any questions about the learning through the comments section or the direct messaging section of Class Dojo

3:00pm The teacher will post any answers to work needed for the children to self-mark or they will provide feedback to work children have shared via their Class Dojo portfolios

3:30pm The teacher will say good afternoon and good-bye via Class Dojo

We aim to provide a range of high quality, creative ideas for learning across the range of subjects that we teach in school. We will be creating learning content which ensures that we cover the subjects for the academic year that have not yet been covered in school as well as revisiting some of the subjects that have already been taught. If you have any questions at all about the learning provided please message the class teacher in the first instance via Class Dojo. Please note teachers will only be responding to messages between the hours of 8:45am and 3:45pm. After 3:45pm they will set a quiet hours response on Class Dojo and will not view messages until the next morning.

Once a week teachers will also ask you to let them know if you feel your child would benefit from a phone call from the teacher. If your child would like to speak to their teacher you will be able to direct message the teacher the best telephone number to contact you on and they will call and have a chat with your child. Please note that the teachers will be calling from a withheld number.

Teachers will also be working at school on a duty rota to ensure that we can provide for Key Workers' children and vulnerable children. If your child's class teacher is on duty they will let the class know the working day before and another teacher from the same year group will cover the distance learning for that duty day.

In addition to class teacher's engagement, I will also be using Class Dojo to keep some of weekly routines going over the closure period. I will conduct a daily 'check in with the children' by saying "good morning" on the school story each day and I will record a virtual celebration assembly on a Friday, awarding the Gem and Hot Chocolate Friday certificates.

I will also be providing some Thrive based learning tips and videos on the school story for all families to use as part of our commitment to our school communities' mental health and well-being.

I will also be available via the direct messaging function on Class Dojo. You will be able to message me between the hours of 8am and 5pm.

If your child is attending school during the closure because you are a key worker or your child falls into one of the vulnerable groups described by the government, we will make provision for the children to be engaged in the learning provided by their class teacher and a range of curriculum activities such as art, P.E, PSHE and Thrive based activities.

We take the safety of all of our children very seriously and therefore we have set up a dedicated Safeguarding email address. If you are concerned about a child's safety or welfare during the closure or you would like some additional support from our family support lead or the safeguarding team, please email safeguarding@sa.clf.uk. This email box will be checked twice daily Monday to Friday whilst the school is partially closed. There is also further information and support with regards to safeguarding from the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership <https://bristolsafeguarding.org/>, you can report concerns via this link <https://bristolsafeguarding.org/children-home/contact/how-to-report-a-concern/>

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your understanding and messages of support at this challenging time.

Best wishes



Rebecca Curtis
Principal