



3 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As we come to the end of a very strange and unusual term, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you all once again for all of your ongoing help and support. In the normal scheme of things, we should be breaking up for the Easter holiday today, yet life is very different for us all.

I am really proud of the way we have come together in the last few weeks to support each other, as well as the pupils, both in and out of school. Looking at the Edmodo pages there certainly seems to be lots of the pupils completing and sharing work with staff. I know that this work has caused difficulties at times, but we are really grateful for your ongoing support in providing home learning opportunities and times for your children.

I wanted to take the time to remind you all of the many extraordinary things we have achieved together in this traditional Spring term. Within a few weeks of our return after Christmas we were visited by OFSTED, who recognised the strong work that goes on every day and once again rated us as a "GOOD" school in every area of focus, despite the tougher new framework. We followed their visit by hosting a successful Year 8 Parents Evening, which we hope helped you and your child come to important decisions on their KS4 option choices. This was swiftly followed by yet another successful Health Education programme, where we were supported by the SHARE project and Young Somerset.

The last few weeks have seen another superb Year 5 play, with every Year 5 child once again taking part, supported by around a third of the pupils in Year 8. The play saw two sell-out evenings and a dress rehearsal for grandparents. Once again, our Year 8 Mock Trial team took on older pupils winning the local round of the competition. It is a real shame that they will not be able to go on and compete in the further rounds due to the current situation.

This week, also saw us convert to become an Academy and join the Wessex Learning Trust. This is a vital and important step for our school and the Mendip Edge Federation. It will allow us to work to even greater depths with our partner schools in the Cheddar Valley, as well as ensuring that every child in the area has the very best educational journey and experience possible, with greater capacity for us to get even better.

I would like to finish by reminding everyone of a few important contact details. If you become concerned about a child or family during this period, please do not hesitate to contact safeguarding@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk or call 07943 177293. Alternatively, you can call Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224 or NSPCC on 0808 800 5000. If you are a key worker and your provision needs change (and you have no other childcare options) please contact the school on office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk

Finally, please remember that it is the holiday period! The weather is set to stay fair so please enjoy your time together as a family, maintain social distancing and follow government guidelines to stay safe. We look forward to welcoming the pupils back to Fairlands as soon as we are advised it is safe to do so.

Thank you once again and Happy Easter to all our families!

Yours sincerely

Stefan McHale
Headteacher



Fairlands Middle School

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Headteacher: Stefan McHale
Deputy Headteachers: Helen Heffernan and Kate Persaud
Associate Leaders: Robert Cooling and Matthew Vincent SENDCo

Safeguarding Children is everyone's responsibility.

If you are worried about any child please make an appointment to see either Helen Heffernan, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Robert Cooling, Felicity Grant, Sally Virgin, Designated Safeguarding Deputies
Alternatively, you can phone NPSCC: 0808 800 5000 Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224