



DARELL PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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Acting Headteachers: **Joe Porter and Paul Gilbert**

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Hello all,

We just wanted to send you a quick e-mail to let you know that we miss you all and are looking forward to the day when we can be re-united as a school community. The normality of our everyday lives has been shattered and as a school we want to reach out to you all and continue to be an integral part of your lives. I would like to thank you all for being so efficient in identifying whether your child would remain at school during our closure. I also wanted to let you know how proud we are of our staff. Preparing for this closure has involved an immense amount of work and everybody has pulled together. From setting up our virtual learning platform, to home delivering free school meals, each and every one of our staff has stepped up. I am consistently impressed with the values they showcase every day. We currently have 12 children across site and in these stressful times the best antidote I have is spending time with them. I can hear our 3 children in our Early Years cohort now laughing and generally having a lovely time. Their positivity and belief in the future is inspiring and is driving each and every one of us.

I would urge you to have some patience with our home school learning. Paul Gilbert, a man of many talents, has moved mountains to set up what will be an excellent forum for your child to remain connected to the school and their learning. We are aiming for it to become 'live' on Thursday 26th March. The staff team, including those who are self-isolating, will be gathering around their laptops this afternoon to take part in Google Classroom online training. This will be a learning curve and there will be issues as we move forward. I suggest that we have a go with what we have planned until the Easter break and then take some feedback from you at this time. This will take the form of a survey. Home learning is a contentious issue and one that I have found that divides parents. It will not be possible to please everyone but hopefully we can forge ahead with a consensus around what works well. We will continue to look at ways to stay in touch with you and I will leave you with one promise that will not be broken. When we open our gates wide to welcome you all back into this amazing school we will not walk slowly and sensibly back in to class but will dance and sing and celebrate us being one again.

Look after yourselves and your families,

Joe Porter
Headteacher

