

14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**FAO: Parents/Carers**

Dear all,

We would like to take this opportunity to communicate with you all regarding the importance of looking after yourselves during this current national lockdown that we find ourselves in.

We are aware that there is lots of information and advice being portrayed online and through local news channels, but want to reassure all parents/carers of Phoenix Academy pupils that the mainstream guidance being reported is not always relevant to our students.

Remote learning has been set up and is currently running for our pupils to access via Class DoJo and Purple Mash and it is fantastic to see that many pupils are engaging in these activities and we would love to see this continue....but learning is not all about the lessons being set online and it is important that you and your child spend quality time together to learn things that are not taught in a classroom.

All learning is learning, regardless of how it is taught so please remember that you can still engage your child with lots of activities and learning opportunities on a day to day basis that does not require them to sit at a computer all day every day....here are some examples:-

- Making sandwiches for lunch = learning motor skills and healthy eating
- Teaching a pet a new trick = Resilience, repetitive work and understanding we all have to start somewhere
- Making/changing a bed = motor skills and when it comes to changing a duvet cover.. lots of resilience!
- Baking a cake (because its Friday) or making cookies = learning measuring of ingredients and quantities
- If your child has a specific interest in a topic such as 'dinosaurs/trains/aeroplanes' ask them to write about what they enjoy about = English/Topic work.
- When you next pop to the shop for bread and milk, and you are paying with £5.00 – how much change should you have? = Maths
- Watching the BBC primary lessons on TV – take a picture and send it to us and ask your child to write a paragraph about what they enjoyed and what they learnt new today.
- Learning to tie shoe laces by themselves or fastening and opening buttons = motor skills
- Do a video message to send to your teacher to let us know what you are doing and how you are getting on... = IT
- Go for a funny walk (skip/silliest walk/jump) etc = PE / Keeping fit and getting fresh air
- Collect leaves for a masterpiece = Art

Continued...

We accept that this is an extremely difficult time for everyone and we want to reassure our families that staff of Phoenix Academy are here to support you.

As parents/carers it is also important to have FUN whilst you have got your child at home and keep things as calm and stress free as possible...more than ever we need to be kind to each other, so let us know how your child has been kind today:-

- Put the drying away with you
- Loaded the washing machine with you
- Sang you a song
- Danced with you
- Made you laugh
- Told you a joke

The most important thing at the moment is to be kind to yourselves and keep your family safe. Spend quality time with your child/ren. Learning is important and we are really happy to see that there is lots of work being completed on the remote learning, but it is equally important to learn life skills – and you can take pictures, video's of this learning and ask your child to draw a picture or write down what they have learnt and send it in to the Teacher....we would love to see any extra learning that your child is doing.

Please rest assured that we will keep you updated as guidance changes and that staff are on hand to guide and support you.

Keep safe and well and remember to be kind to each other.

Yours faithfully

All Staff of Phoenix Academy