

Sir Martin Frobisher Academy

Frobisher Drive, Jaywick, Clacton, CO15 2QH

Telephone: 01255 427073

Email: Frobisher.Admin@smfa.org.uk

Website: www.smfa.org.uk



Headteacher: Mrs Debbie Gayler

Deputy Heads: Mr David Girdlestone and Miss Victoria Higgins

Thursday 7th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I thought I would take the opportunity to write to you at the end of what has been a very busy first week as the Headteacher at Sir Martin Frobisher. I have spent some time in school and on conference calls with members of staff. I am really excited about leading Sir Martin Frobisher over the coming years and working closely with children, staff, parents and other members of the Jaywick community.

These are very unusual times and many of the children have not been in school for seven weeks now. The teachers have started their second round of phone calls and I know they are enjoying catching up with the children in their class. Thank you for all the support you are giving the children with their home learning. I have three children of my own and it can be difficult to get them motivated sometimes! Please do not worry if your child is not completing all the work they have been set. The most important thing is that they feel happy, safe and secure. Once the children are back in school we will work with them to help them to catch up.

As I am sure you are aware, there is due to be an announcement on Sunday about whether lockdown will continue or if some of the current restrictions can be lifted. We are working closely with the Trust and will let you know as soon as any decisions have been made that will affect the children and families of Sir Martin Frobisher. In the meantime, the school has been deep cleaned and staff will continue to provide weekly home learning which is published on the school website. Thank you to everyone who has already sent photographs or examples of children's learning via Facebook and updates@smfa.org.uk. Please keep sending these in as it is great to see what the children have been up to!

Staff have also been busy with their own home learning and have completed several online courses, as well as attending regular staff meetings and training via 'Zoom'. Teachers are beginning to plan for next year and we have also been looking at how we can make our curriculum more exciting and relevant for our children. Most of the staff team are on a rota for our childcare provision for vulnerable children and children of Key Workers. Children attending have created some wonderful artwork which we can use to brighten up areas of the school. I was also very impressed with the junk modelling competition - the children created some amazing 'Leaning Towers of Jaywick'.

I hope that you are all able to enjoy the sunshine over the VE Day Bank Holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Debbie Gayler

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