



26th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I continue to spend a great deal of time thinking about you all and hoping you are all ok.

To those of you with family members feeling unwell we send you our love thoughts and wish you/them speedy recoveries.

To all of our Critical Worker families/Parents/Carers we THANK YOU! I have been fortunate to have been able to thank our Critical Worker Parents and Carers at the gates each morning. Words cannot express enough, how thankful we all are. I am sure many of you will have gone to your windows and front doors to Clap for our Carers - in my local community it was heart-warming to hear the echo of clapping all around.

The world is a quieter place, with traffic and the busy hustle and bustle that usually blanks out the sights and sounds of the wildlife around us. It has gradually occurred to me how amazing the birdsong is at the moment - have you noticed this too? I am sure busy and active households will have moments where there is a lot noise. I encourage you all to take a moment just to listen to the world outside. Wildlife spotting can be great fun and something the children will enjoy. <https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/spotting-sheets>

On Monday the children attending school went home with rainbow paintings and artwork. I hope you are showing them off proudly in your windows. If you haven't had a go at creating one - why not have a go tomorrow. I am sure the children will let the adults have a go too! I hope the activities the Teachers have established for the children are keeping you all busy. Do check the Class Pages on the School Website regularly as this will be updated. We have been pleased to help regarding queries as this week has unfolded and homes are getting used to Learning Away From School.

The School Office has shared a couple of notices for our Critical Worker Parents/Carers today who have care places during this school closure period. It will be immensely useful for me to have as up to date as possible your requests for care places over the Easter two weeks. It will be necessary to pool staff across the Trust for this purpose and I must signpost at this stage that we will almost certainly be operating out of John Clare Primary School. WPS staff will be involved including our Premier Sport staff colleagues and Senior Leadership cover will be in place.

We are fast approaching the end of the first week of the school closures and enforced social distancing. I am proud of our amazing staff team which includes Teachers, Teaching Assistants, School Office, Site Staff, Cleaning and Catering staff who have quickly got up to speed with working differently and supporting our school community from within school or remotely from their homes. Gavin Williamson Secretary of State for Education wrote to all schools today acknowledging this great effort and commitment.

I hope you know that we care about you all and just because we are not able to share in normal school contact and routines, we are here for you. If you need assistance please do make contact and we will do our level best to support or signpost where assistance can be found.

Thank you for your ongoing support, keep safe and well and please do share your amazing home learning stories with us. A message for the children: What have you taught your parents/carers today? Have a go at being the Teacher – go gently with the adults!

Yours sincerely,

Ben Wilding
Headteacher/CEO