



7th May 2020

Good evening everyone.

I hope you are all keeping safe and well as we approach the end of Week 7 COVID-19 lockdown and school closure. Today our pedestrian access gate was decorated with Reception children's pictures – they are spectacular, well done everyone. It would be great to have more work decorating the gates and other points.

I am confident that whilst the school has been closed (except for Critical Workers children), children and adults will have been accumulating new knowledge, learning new skills and gaining a greater understanding of the world in general. I am sure that some of you will have become experts very quickly at new things. I have watched my youngest daughter master holding a handstand and put on a jumper simultaneously! Separately the skills are useful - I am not sure when this combined skill may be helpful however that really isn't the point. This was all about a challenge she had set herself and it could almost have been anything. Breaking down each component part, putting the successful sequence together and then practising round the clock. I would be really interested to know what wonderful and unusual skills the children have become an expert in. I wonder if putting a quilt cover on a duvet is one of them?

The Learning Away From School resources and links continue to be provided by our Teachers and I hope they have been useful alongside the wider offer from BBC Bitesize/Oak National Academy. We have taken various steps to increase the opportunity to use interactive platforms such as Tapestry and Google Classroom. I know for our Reception/EYFS families this has been very useful – we took the decision to open up Tapestry for Year 1 given the familiarity with the system from last year. This has been a positive improvement in our offer to you. Again, developments for Year 2 have seen the launch of Google Classroom – I have been delighted to hear that ahead of the official launch many of you have logged in an accessing the various activities. Key Stage 2 are all now accessing Google Classroom and refinements and additional engagement has been very positive. I wanted to acknowledge the great response we have seen from home as well as the skilful work our Teachers have been committed to. We are all learning new skills!

I would like to draw your attention once again to recent guidance we received from Peterborough Local Authority regarding changing personal financial circumstances at this most challenging time. It may now be the case that you now meet the criteria necessary to claim additional support. I have uploaded the letter and claim form for your reference to the School website – Newsletters. I hope this will be useful once again for you to consider.

For those families in receipt of Free School Meals - Edenred vouchers have been issued now for several weeks. This is the national system and we know there have been some issues within the system. The School Office staff have worked their magic representing specific concerns which you have shared. I believe most of the issues have been resolved by Edenred – do keep us in the loop and we will chase!

The current Government School Closure and lockdown remains in place. We are all anticipating the next update will be provided on Sunday 10th May, 2020. I would like to stress the importance of allowing School to digest and fully understand the Government's directive if changes are required to the current closure notice. I would like to reassure you that we have been fully interacting as a Trust leadership group as well as with local and regional CEO/LA work groups - which have been most useful in attempting to understand the ever changing landscape COVID-19 presents. This will continue as the new week dawns. I will provide you with an update later next week regarding any implications and would urge everyone to avoid speculation at this stage. Your continued support is very much appreciated in this regard.

I know we are all hopeful that some form of normality will start to return to our lives. We all have a responsibility to keep safe, protect the NHS and enable critical workers to keep the country going at this most difficult time. Once again please be reassured - we will keep you informed whenever guidance changes.

Please do keep safe and well and say HELLO to the children from me!

Yours sincerely,

Ben Wilding
Headteacher/CEO