

It is hard to comprehend and believe that we are here again, living through the craziest, upsetting and worrying times that many of us have ever experienced in our own life time. We have to stay strong and believe and HOPE that better times are ahead.

I genuinely feel heartbroken that we are in this position again where we cannot have the children in school where they belong. However, I understand why the school has to be closed to the majority of pupils and appreciate that if we are to have 'normal' times again we need to conquer this virus once and for all and HOPE in the vaccine. Having seen my own family members who I love dearly hospitalised and very poorly as a result of this virus I am asking that no one under estimates or makes light of what it does. It is true that many, many people are fortunate enough to experience very mild symptoms but it also true that for people who are not lucky, this virus can be fatal leaving families devastated. We have to keep everyone in our school community safe and to do this we need you to do what is being asked of you and **stay at**

home and stay safe. The advice remains that **the SAFEST PLACE FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN IS AT HOME.**

hope

If you only carry one thing throughout your entire life, let it be hope. Let it be hope that better things are always ahead. Let it be hope that you can get through even the toughest of times. Let it be hope that you are stronger than any challenge that comes your way. Let it be hope that you are exactly where you are meant to be right now, and that you are on the path to where you are meant to be... Because during these times, hope will be the very thing that carries you through.

- Nikki Banas | Walk the Earth

HOME
LEARNING.
During school closure

I do not under estimate the challenge you all face at home with home learning. I know that some of you will be feeling the pressure of being at home and the novelty of not having school again for many children has worn off. Please do not compare yourselves to others and the "super parents" on social media who post how well they are doing and how perfect their days are as people will only post what they want us to see and the reality can often be very different. Most parents including the staff in school are coping with bored, upset and anxious children who are missing their friends in school and who can save their most challenging

behaviours for us - their parents!

You are juggling home schooling, your own work, caring for family members and your own anxiety issues about the situation we are in. You are not trained teachers and we appreciate that but the very clear expectation from the Government is that ALL children if at home must complete home learning. If they don't they will fall significantly behind their peers. Children have now lost so much time in school and we cannot allow this to affect their life chances. We know what is being asked of you is difficult and demanding but we are here to help and support you in school.

- Learning will be set via SEESAW and anything you need is contained in your packs.
- Keep to a routine with children e.g. get them up at the same time that you would on a normal school day. Keep set bed times. This is not a holiday period. Children need routine and this will help them to have more structure to the day.
- The expectation from the Government is that children do at least 3 hours learning per day. This can be broken up in to chunks and make sure you get some fresh air too when you do your daily exercise.
- Work through daily tasks and if there is anything you do not understand then message class teachers. Please appreciate that this time, all teachers are working in school and juggling the demands of learners who are in school and at home.

We are in a NATIONAL LOCKDOWN and it is required by LAW that we follow this guidance.

You must stay at home. The single most important action we can all take is to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives.

You must not leave except where necessary. You may leave the home to:

- shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
- go to work if you cannot reasonably do so from home
- exercise with your household (or support bubble), this should be limited to once per day.
- You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone you do not live with or are not in a [support bubble](#) with (if you are legally permitted to form one).
- You cannot meet other people you do not live with, or have not formed a support bubble with, unless for a permitted reason.

National Lockdown

STAY AT HOME

We need to stay at home to protect the NHS. The people working in hospitals are working unbelievably hard and in such challenging and difficult circumstances.

Loving Lord

We pray for your love and compassion to abound as we walk through this challenging season.

We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load of making decisions with widespread consequences.

We pray for those who are suffering with sickness and all who are caring for them.

We ask for protection for the elderly and vulnerable to not succumb to the risks of the virus.

We pray for misinformation to be curbed that fear may take no hold in hearts and minds.

As we exercise the good sense that you in your mercy provide, may we also approach each day in faith and peace, trusting in the truth of your goodness towards us.

Amen

Prayer: Mothers' Union

Image: Elizabeth Perry

Ongoing communication - As a school we are very keen to maintain good communication with our families whether children are in school or at home.

- Teachers are available via SEESAW. Please don't send messages after 5pm though as they are working harder than ever at the moment and need a break!
- I can be contacted via the School Office email or the office is staffed each week day if you need to telephone.
- Any important messages will be sent via SEESAW or on Parentmail and weekly newsletters will also be sent. Please read this each week as it will contain important updates.
- All correspondence will also be updated on the School Website.

I would really like to take this opportunity to thank you for the kind words, messages, emails of appreciation and thanks and for working with us to secure the best possible situation we can for all, given these challenging circumstances. We are all fed up of the situation we find ourselves in again but it is only by staying home and staying safe things will improve.

The staff in school have been phenomenal. They are juggling teaching in school at their own risk and home learning - I truly cannot ask any more of them. I have a responsibility to keep them safe and they along with your children are my priority. I know many parents would prefer for their children to be in school and I have had to make some difficult decisions this week, but I have appreciated those parents who understand this. The medical and scientific advisors are all clear at the moment that the safest place for everyone right now is at home. Please try and stay positive during these difficult times. We will get through this period and come out the other side stronger. There are lots of resources on the Mental Health page of our website for children and adults who are struggling and feel they need some support.

Stay safe and PLEASE take care. Mrs Ralph