

15th April 2020

Message from Mr. Watson

Dear Parent/carer,

Much of my communication with you recently has been rather formal, focussed on keeping everyone safe by following the guidelines laid out by Public Health England and the Local Authority. I want to thank you all for how you are responding to the crisis, from those who are staying at home to those of you who are key workers, we all have a part to play in getting through this extremely challenging situation. In addition, your messages of thanks and support do mean a lot to us and are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

I am sure that there will be some in our school community who have been affected by the current situation in the most tragic way. If you are struggling and think that there is anything we could offer, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Our priority is always the wellbeing and safety of not only our children, but our parents and carers as well.

As a staff, we are really missing the children and our interactions with you. We want to reach out and try to make a connection that we hope can be developed through the crisis.

To this end, over the next few days, your child's class teacher will be contacting you on the phone. **Please note, the number will be private, please don't ignore it and apologies in advance if you get someone asking if you want new windows.** The main purpose of the call is to say hello and let you know we are here for you. It would be wonderful if your child could also have a moment to speak to their class teacher, just so they know we are here and thinking of them.

I also wanted to update you on our planned approach to home learning over the next few weeks. At the start of the outbreak our key aims were to make the home learning as simple and accessible as possible and taking account of people's wellbeing at home. This meant that most of learning was consolidation of previously taught material and had an element of choice about what the children could do.

However, as the restrictions continue, we feel it is time to look again at what we are providing, both in terms of content and also how it is presented, organised and accessed.

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We want to include your views and opinions in making this decision. So, if you don't mind, during the phone conversation your child's class teacher would like to ask you for your feedback and thoughts about home learning as we move forward.

Finally, on a personal note. I don't mind admitting that being removed from the school community is proving hard, I genuinely miss everyone associated with Hunter's Bar. However, it has also made me value what we have. When all of this is over and we return to some semblance of normality I will be so glad to see you all, but most especially the children – it is a privilege to spend my working days with them and I will welcome them back with open arms.

Michael Watson
Headteacher

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