



21st April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

How are you all? The children and your selves are in my thoughts constantly. I hope you and your extended families are all staying healthy both physically and emotionally and that you managed to enjoy some of the lovely weather we've been having. Thank goodness for the sunshine. (I've never done so much gardening in my life!)

I wanted to update you on changes in staff which were planned well before the Easter break but have been overtaken by events. Sadly, Mrs Tiddy our Senco has resigned her post and decided to go back into teaching and use her excellent skills back in the classroom at a special school. She has loved her time at Messing and has done a fantastic job supporting our staff, pupils and families. I know you would like to join me in wishing her every success with the new challenges ahead.

We are delighted to have appointed Mrs Lewis as our new Senco and she has now taken up this role alongside her teaching role. This is ideal for the school as it has allowed a good handover; Mrs Lewis also has such a good knowledge of all the children and is a familiar friendly face for parents. Your patience is appreciated while she settles into this role –but please remember she is there to support you. She can be contacted at: h.lewis@messingprimaryschool.co.uk.

Mrs Moore our Midday assistant is also leaving us. All three of her children have enjoyed being at Messing and we thank her for her dedication to the school.

I can see that the teachers have been planning some interesting activities for the children linked to their new topic learning. I know you are all doing your best to support your child with their learning. Remember you can only do what you can and that's fine. Each family will be experiencing different pressures and managing these as best they can. Any concerns or questions you have regarding the activities, please do not hesitate to contact the staff. They are able to adapt the learning for your child if needed or to give advice to support you with helping them to engage and be motivated.

As the lockdown continues we are aiming to have more regular contact with the children as we are missing them all. I think they would probably like to have a quick chat and catch up with their teachers too? The class teacher will be in contact to arrange to telephone you at an agreed convenient time once a week. This is a quick friendly catch up chat–NOT a check up on how much work they have been doing! Obviously there are protocols which will need to be in place. The teacher will be ringing you as the parent and any conversation will be with you and your child on speakerphone. Some children are shy on the phone and may just choose a 'hello' –that's fine. There will be no expectation that they have a chat if they don't want to. The teachers will be contacting you shortly by e mail to arrange this with you.

We understand that this continues to be an extremely challenging time for all of us and your wellbeing is our highest priority. I have attached a letter from the Director of Education, Claire Kershaw and a flyer with information from the Education psychologist team. There are also contact details from the Essex child and family wellbeing service attached and Colchester Borough Council have also produced a support leaflet with very detailed support information.

I want to reassure that we are here for you and willing to help in any way we can. We really are all in this together and if we can help we will. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. If you prefer a phone conversation please e mail to let us know and we can ring you.

Sending warmest wishes to you all

Mrs Jackie Halliday
Headteacher