



Wednesday 6th May2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well and in regular communication with your friends and family. Sadly, I am aware that two of our families have suffered a bereavement with the loss of a grandparent because of the virus; on behalf of the staff and governors I extend our sincere condolences and sympathy at this most difficult time. If there is anything at all we can do to make this time easier for you please let me know.

I am missing our lovely school more than ever, including our chats and greetings on the school playground and the conversations with the children; the sound of their chat and laughter is missing from the day. It's very quiet here! The staff have really enjoyed their phone calls with the children and have loved hearing about all the interesting things they've been up to. How creative you all are! I always look forward to seeing the photos of all the creative projects you've been doing which the staff always forward to me.

We are continuing to keep up to date with all the usual management and school development actions which we do behind the scenes as it were, such as curriculum planning and re-design, policy writing, personnel and premises planning, staff meetings etc. This will ensure that we will be ready for when the school is re-opened. This is all still very much a 'wait and see what happens' time. There is no clear decision about or when this might happen, but I will be in touch with you and finding out your feelings about any decisions, when we know more.

Pupil numbers

We have had confirmation of our pupil numbers for the new reception intake and are delighted that we are full with a short waiting list(for the first time!).We look forward to welcoming our new families nearer the time.

Advice for parents

The government has produced advice for parents on [COVID-19: guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing](#) and also an information leaflet on Covid-19 – 'An easy read - looking after your feelings and body' ,which you may find useful. I am pleased that you are discussing any teaching and learning concerns with the teachers as they are in a position to offer good advice and reassurance. There is also a new National Home Learning Support Helpline for Parents which has been set up. The helpline is designed to help parents and carers create regular routines and study habits, offering practical steps to take and access to resources, such as support with a specific topic or advice on how to structure the day, deal with difficult behaviour or manage the learning of several children.

StarLine is open six days a week and covers all areas of the curriculum across all phases of education. The number to call is 0330 313 9162 (calls charged at local rate).The gov. uk website also has lots of information to support parents with questions, The most recent update can be found here. [What parents and carers need to know about schools and other education settings during the coronavirus outbreak](#)



The school remains closed at the moment. St Luke's Primary continue to be open and offering their facility to local schools for the children of key workers. At present none of our families are accessing this. Please let me know straight away if your circumstances have changed and you would like more support from us.

Wellbeing

Please remember, at those peak moments of frustration or concern about the home learning, you and your family's well-being remains the priority at the moment. Sometimes it's better to just stop and take a break for the day the come back to it refreshed.

Finally, I have attached the 'coping calendar' and the May calendar from www.actionforhappiness.org. They will also email out to you their monthly 'action for happiness' calendar if requested. (A copy of this is always up in the staff room so we can try our best to spread a little happiness☺)

Please tell the children I am thinking of them. You are all managing this situation so well but please do contact me or the staff if we can help in any further way.

I can be contacted on my e mail address or via the school e mail. Mrs Gooday is also picking e mails from the school address.

headteacher@messingprimaryschool.co.uk

admin@messingprimaryschool.co.uk

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jackie Halliday
Headteacher