

## UPDATE 20.4.20



Dear Parents/Carers,

*'Never regret a day of your life. Good days bring you happiness, bad days bring you experience.'*

Most importantly, I hope you and your families are all well and I hope you have all had a good Easter holiday, all things considered of course! We have missed a few birthday's Mrs Lowther had a big one, Mrs Farrington and Mrs Lane had theirs and it's Mr Hindhaugh today!! So a very happy birthday and lots of wishes to those very special people. If any of you have had a birthday, many happy returns, we hope you were able to celebrate.

School is now open again for key worker children. Someone in our community left a beautiful painted stone outside school thanking us. Whoever that was, it bought me joy when I unlocked the gates this morning, thank you!

Now that the lock down has been extended and we will be off for longer than we anticipated, we will continue to do our utmost to provide meaningful homelearning for you. Staff will be regularly posting and updating learning for you to do at home on our school website.

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/teaching-learning/learning-zone/>

We are aware that access to online learning is not easy for all. If you are struggling and would prefer physical packs then please let us know and we do our best to prepare some resources for you. This of course won't have the interactivity of the online learning, but hopefully would be better than nothing.

We continue to really value the contact we have with you. Please email class teachers and myself as regularly as you can to let us know how you are getting on. We really hope you're ok and we worry if we don't hear from you.

Also, please be reassured we are not expecting your children to be working all day. Our message is clear, please don't stress or fall out over schoolwork. Once we return to normal we will be able to get all children back on track, that is what we do! Harder to fix will be social and emotional difficulties that will hinder progress, so your most important job is to share calm, strength, love and laughter.

Don't forget we have resources to help on our website:

<https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/parents/support-for-families/>

The summer term is when we start preparing for transition to the next classes and/or phases of education. I am still hopeful we will be back before the end of term and this will be our priority once we return. If however, this doesn't turn out to be the case, staff are working with me to come up with alternative plans to ensure the children have as smooth a transition as possible.

I have had some concerned parents contact school to say that some families are not respecting social distancing and that children are meeting and playing together. This, if true, is disappointing as it is not my job to police this. I will just reiterate the Government's guidelines and implore you to adhere to this for all our sakes.

Someone will be answering the phone now in school so please ring if you have any questions, queries or concerns, or just want to talk. And of course keep emailing us with your feedback on how it's all going.

Missing you all dreadfully - stay safe,

Kay Hanson