

# Updates and WFH - Friday June 5th

Hello all,

I hope that you are all well and had a good half term. It has been a very busy week as we prepare for more children to return to school with all of the changes, procedures, zoning off and training that we have been doing. We were prepared to open earlier but 'our instincts' told us to wait and be 'steady and ready' and it was the correct decision. Just the amount of cleaning, cleaning materials and approaches are a real challenge for our school. We have never shut and have continued to support key workers to do their jobs without worrying about their children.

This is also a really challenging time for all parents/carers, especially those in years that could return to school. We hope that we have been really open and honest about everything that has to happen at school and it helps you to make a decision that is best for you and your family. We are flexible with entry to school and when you want to return so you can wait if you want (you will not be punished now or in the future).

The following information applies to everyone but may be more relevant to some at the moment.

## **Working from home**

- You have been doing 'home learning' for quite a while now and I suspect you have been through every emotion, dilemma and approach with 'tantrums, tears, abstract joy, dis-belief (good and bad) and some real 'wow' moments. All of this is 'normal' and I haven't spoken to anyone who has had a smooth ride and have had roller coaster moments. Do your best !

## **Parenting**

### **Keep your children safe online -**

This is even more important at this time and is the responsibility of all parents. Make sure you know what your children are on, who they are communicating with and what they are doing.

### **Social media -**

Looking at what other parents/carers are doing or celebrating can be both a good thing for ideas but also damaging if you feel your children aren't getting the same 'deal' because you work or don't have the resources or ideas. You can only do 'what you can do' and please celebrate what you have done.

### **Communication -**

Year R, 1, 6 and Key worker children - there are deadlines for entry to school (let us know by Thursday 11am for entry the following Monday) and requirements of key worker children (e-mailed by the office with a deadline for return).

**All parents/carers - any communication with school should only be by e-mail ([admin@madley.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@madley.hereford.sch.uk)) or telephone (01981 250241) between 10am and 2pm Monday to Friday. You are not allowed to enter the school building until further notice.**

### **Curriculum updates for all**

- We would like you to follow the Curriculum Updates more closely if you haven't been. The teachers have been working hard on making sure they are not just web based (as not every family has devices or printers) and to try to make them as user friendly as possible with a wide range of curriculum opportunities for people who may not be teachers.
- Teachers can see the work that is done on all of the platforms that school has provided e.g Education City, Spelling Shed etc. There is no punishment for not doing it but it is a good form of practise (Education City has presented a few problems with Flash Player and the actual site).
- Please keep sharing your work as it has been amazing to see. Thank you to the teachers for their responses to the e-mails and work.
- Short bursts will be sent every Monday morning (8am) and the teachers will add ideas to their Curriculum Updates to do with the short bursts.

We will also be sharing some ideas for mental health and books, resources that may be useful. Lots of children are anxious or worried about everything that is happening and stories and talking may help. More will follow on Curriculum Updates and also on WFH updates each week (we will recommend some books and other sources of information).

### **Future thinking**

- Other year groups returning to school - who knows what the future holds ? There has been no other information from government so we will wait and see. Our own thinking is that we **MAY** invite some year groups for a short 're-connection' day or days if we can before July. It will be a logistical challenge and would involve different days for different groups but we have been thinking about it. This is only an 'idea' we are working on, not a definite.
- We might explore an 'on-line' catch up (seeing each other not academic) if it looks like other year groups weren't going to return. Again we have been thinking about this as we use 'Teams' in school to connect classroom bubbles and also school staff. More to follow at some point .....

The above are not 'promises' but an outline of our thinking.

Lots of the talk in the 'media' is about 'falling behind' and 'catching up' - unless you have done absolutely nothing since we closed then, as professionals we believe the terminology is wrong and children will 'bounce back' quite quickly with good relationships, great teaching and a return to some form of normality. Follow the updates, communicate if you need help and keep it going and we will be in a good place whenever your child returns.

## **Year R,1 and 6 return to school reminders and Key worker reminders.**

### **Timings (really important)**

**Don't be late for school** as you cannot enter via the front door if you are late and will have to go home.

Year R - 9am entry (exit 2:30pm) - you have been sent all of the relevant information for entering/exiting school.

Year 1 - 9am entry (exit 2:45pm) - - you have been sent all of the relevant information for entering/exiting school.

Year 6 - 9am entry (exit 2:45pm) - - you have been sent all of the relevant information for entering/exiting school.

**School closes at 12 noon on a Friday until further notice. School closes earlier every other day as it will be very intense and we need to clean more deeply after school.**

Key worker - 8:45 - 8:55am entry (exit is 3:30pm or MASC). Please do not be late.

**Expectations of you (Year R,1 and 6 parents/carers)** - we would love to chat to you when you drop off but I'm afraid we won't and it will seem quite rude ('politely rude' we hope) but we would like you to drop off and leave the school site as soon as possible. We also ask that you do not hang around school chatting with others. The school car park is not open for parents and you should not use the bus bay to park or drop off (as children MUST be accompanied). We hope that you understand and we aren't being rude !

### **A big 'thank you' to all staff**

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big 'thank you' to all of the staff who have worked hard throughout this whole time and will continue to do so. This week all staff were 'walked through' school as it looks now and all of the new procedures and expectations we have. It was a very emotional time for people who may not have been able to be in school as the realisation of what it looks like as well as feelings of guilt for not being able to be here as much as they would want. As we have said to everyone 'this is a moment in time' and we know that everyone will do what they can when they can. They can be very proud of their approach and responding to work that has been e-mailed in etc. Their values have shone through in all aspects of their approach, integrity and humility at the forefront of their professionalism.

A big 'thank you' for the positive approach and response from parents/carers as well, your supportive e-mails, presents left at doors or on our cars and lovely comments have kept people going and made everything that little bit brighter. Values are not a programme or a book of instructions they are intrinsic in the way we live and how we make decisions (as we say to the children 'they are not skin deep but embedded in your soul.') I am extremely proud to be associated with such a wonderful set of staff but also parents/carers who display such 'common sense' and a supportive approach to school in difficult times. Thank you.

We all want to get everyone back to school and return to more 'normality' as soon as possible. Have patience and we will get there.

Best wishes to all

**Mr Batstone**