



NEWHALL
PRIMARY ACADEMY AND NURSERY

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24th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and that you managed to enjoy the Easter break. The weather has been glorious and hopefully this will continue over the coming weeks. I certainly enjoyed spending some time in the garden and have planted lots of sunflower seeds with my youngest daughter. We are looking forward to seeing them grow over the next few weeks.

Everyone should have received a phone call this week from their child's class teacher or a member of the Nursery team. I know that the staff have really enjoyed speaking to you and the children. It has been lovely to hear about some of the things the children have been up to! We will aim to contact you every fortnight to check in with the children and also answer any questions you may have regarding home learning.

Home learning is being updated on Tapestry each week and it is great to see some of the activities the children have been doing at home. I love the fact that some of the children have been learning vital life skills, including how to dust, wash their own bike and Hoover. They are all going to grow into very house proud young adults!

Like many of you, I am trying to juggle home schooling with a full-time job. I have discovered I have a lot less patience with my own children! Please can I remind you that we are not expecting the children to complete all the work that we set, we will catch them up when we return to school. The most important thing is that they feel happy, safe and secure. I would ask that you do share stories with the children though, as a love of reading is one of the most important things we can give our children.

You will be aware that last week the government confirmed that the lock down will continue for at least another three weeks. However, alongside this news is constant speculation about when and how schools across the country will be reopened. I want to confirm that at this time these messages are pure speculation – the school, Trust nor the local authority has any information about what plans the government are considering once the lockdown is eased or when that might be.

Re-opening schools will be complex, even if that is partial re-opening. The priority, of course, will be to ensure that it is safe for all children, staff and parents when they return to school. At present, for those few families that are accessing school provision, you will know that social distancing is being practiced alongside good hand hygiene, and whilst some learning is



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being supported, it is far from the reality of normal school life. For schools to re-open, clear guidance on social distancing will be required as well as ensuring that the majority of staff can return; we are aware that for some their personal circumstance means that they are required to 'shield' or live with family members who are shielding, which may mean that they need to socially isolate themselves and not return to work.

As with all decisions the government are making in relation to coronavirus, the scientific evidence will be required to underpin the timing of the decision to re-open schools as well as the process for this.

We continue to operate child care provision for vulnerable children and children of Key Workers at Pemberley Academy. Please contact office@newhallacademy.org if you need to use this facility. We do require 24 hours notice for this, so that we can ensure a member of Newhall staff is present.

Newhall staff continue to work from home and teachers are busy planning home learning and the curriculum for next year. They have also been completing the children's reports and we will aim to send these out before half term. All staff are completing online learning, creating resources and attending regular 'Zoom' staff meetings. Office staff are also starting to prepare for our new cohort of Reception children who will join us in September.

I would like to welcome Miss Wiggins to the Newhall family. She started as one of our Year 2 teachers and English Subject Lead on April 20th. She has already started to plan for the children going into Year 2 next year and is also working on our English curriculum for when children have completed the Read Write Inc programme.

Finally, I would like to reassure you that I will continue as Headteacher at Newhall until the end of lockdown, to ensure that there is a smooth transition for children, staff and parents. I hope that you all have a lovely weekend and that you stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Debbie Gayler
Headteacher