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Newhall Bulletin: 12.02.2021



Message from the Headteacher

Just this week I popped into a classroom and when I asked the children how they were, one of them shared the following thought with me: 'I miss all my friends. I miss seeing the friends who are at home and I'm upset that I can't hug any of those who are here with me. I feel like how we were before is gone. Like I've lost everything and everyone.'

I have no doubt that this reflects how many of us may be feeling - an overwhelming sense of frustration at not having any personal space or how fed up we are with not being able to experience the joy of socialising with friends and family.

My response to the child and to all of you is this. We are **ALL** heroes in this historical drama. We have had to work hard at being patient, understanding and resilient in this year-long struggle. Heroes overcome adversity and so will we. Heroes don't give up and neither will we. Heroes live in hope for better and so will we. This awful time will pass and there will come a time, hopefully within the very near future, where we will be able to do the things we love most in places we enjoy and with those we miss so much.

The first step is to get all our children back at school which will allow all parents to go back to work. I hope and pray this will be soon after the 8th March.

I hope that our children, parents and staff enjoy this break from schoolwork, that we allow ourselves a chance to reflect on how well we have managed during this lockdown, especially when it might have felt a bit overwhelming. Heroes need to take a little rest too!

Best wishes,
Mrs Ward

COVID Reporting

Please note that during half term up until Wednesday 17th February, we remain responsible for COVID reporting and contact tracing for the children and staff who have been present in school. If your child displays any COVID symptoms please arrange a PCR test and notify the School Office by email office@newhallacademy.org as soon as possible. Emails will be monitored for this purpose.

MIND Essex document

Please find attached a letter regarding MIND's Parent to Parent service. The service aims to help those parents who could be feeling overwhelmed by the challenges faced with parenting or maybe just feel lonely in their parenting journey.

Parents can be referred or self refer. We would appreciate this information and offer for support being shared with anyone you feel could make use of the service.

Menu:

This **QR code** can be read by any barcode scanner app on your smart phone to access the allergen and nutritional data.

Or visit <https://app.catercloud.com/menu/62D6074A-496F-4F7B-A9FF-F6A0714D59A6>

