



Dear parents/carers,

Hope you are all well and managing the recent events.

I just want to start this letter with a huge thank you to all of you for playing your part in keeping our community safe, whether you have

- Stayed at home
- Worked as a key worker in any form
- Supported your child with home learning
- Supported your child with their emotional well-being through this time by just being there for them

A huge thank you to my fabulous, dedicated staff who are simply the best! Their passion for ensuring you and your children receive the very best in terms of access to home learning, emotional support and care for the key worker children who are needing to be in school just makes me so proud and feeling very lucky to be their leader.

We were due to break up from school for the Easter on Thursday this week; it's really odd to think about that now! School remains open for the few children we have in, even on the bank holidays, and I am very grateful again for my team for being willing to go above and beyond when providing this service for the community. We all take comfort from the fact we are doing our bit to support the NHS and other critical workers.

As it is officially Easter holidays though, between Friday 10th April and Monday 20th April, we will be uploading some informal Easter activities for you to do over this period of time, IF YOU SO WISH. There will be no expectation for you to complete these, staff will not be responding to messages about these on Teams throughout the week as regularly as they may currently. I think you will appreciate how important it is for them to get a break so I am encouraging them to take some time for themselves but know they will find it very difficult to switch off from thinking about you all.

I just want to ask you to pass on a message to your children from me. Tell them I am incredibly proud of them, their messages, photos and learning activities are just amazing and I know staff are so pleased to see them. Tell them we are all well and school is fine. Tell them we are missing them like crazy and can't wait to see them

again. We know it will be a few weeks yet but we will be spending some time making sure everything is ready for when we do return!

Tell them also that every Thursday night at 8pm, I will be outside my house Clapping for the Carers as will the rest of the staff, if you can do this as a family at that time too then we can have some Elliston Team togetherness in thought for a very good cause.

Please do not hesitate to send me a message via email or through the Facebook page at any point over the next few weeks - even Easter holiday time - should you have any questions or queries at all. You can always ring the school office and I will ring you back.

Finally, a huge thank you to you all for your never-ending support and best wishes for me and my team, we have needed it over the last few weeks more than ever before.

Keep safe and I will be in touch soon

Mrs Patterson