



3rd April 2020

Our Amazing Children,

I was thinking this morning about what was a very different experience of school for the past two weeks. I was thinking about the small number of staff and pupils who joined us in school and how exceptional they were; a real example of friendship and courage. I was thinking also about you at home and how very proud I am of each one of you.

Last week probably felt odd to you. I know it certainly felt strange to me. I missed your “good morning” greetings and visiting your classes throughout the day. I missed your company and the company of your teachers together too. I missed our assembly entrance music being played loudly on a Friday, your feet moving far too quickly down the corridor as you head off for lunch and the constant flow of Headteacher awards coming into my office! School is a much emptier and quieter place at the moment, but remember it is only temporary. It won't last forever. Soon, normal school life will return and when it does we will have so much to share with one another, so many stories to tell and so much to be thankful for.

I have been keeping up to date with what some of you have been doing. I know lots of you have started each day enjoying PE with Joe Wicks (and many parents have joined in too!). I have seen photographs of the most beautiful rainbow pictures being shared between friends; a sign of hope. Well done to you all.

We are lucky. We live in times when the world is almost completely connected via the internet. We have been asked to stay at home, but the beauty of the internet means we can still stay connected - joining family and friends in their own homes, without ever having to leave ours. This means that we can still share laughter and smiles, tell our news, play games together and talk to each other. Yes, it's different, but it's possible and that's a great thing!

Keep your mind and body active. Your teachers are working hard everyday adding to the 'Home Learning' area on the school website and connecting with you all via seesaw. Whilst it is essential you keep reading, writing and applying your number knowledge, this will only fill part of your time. Be creative with your days too - paint, draw, invent, sing, dance and act. Exercise, smile and have fun as you should. Mrs. Ward has collated a wonderful set of activities to help keep you busy over the Easter holidays if you find yourselves bored. I would love to see some photographs of you attempting some of them!

Just as you have been asked to stay away from school for a while, your parents and carers too might be working from home. Be helpful at home. Be patient with yourself and with each other. If you have worries, talk about them. Your parents and carers love you very much and are there to help.

Be a positive role model - let other people see how powerful and wonderful you are by talking to adults about what you are afraid of, bringing positivity to your family when they look sad and strengthening them by your good humour or kind words. This strange time will pass and at some point in the future the Rackham family will be together again. You will sit again at your desk, you will play on our field and the all-weather pitch. I will tell you to wait quietly in the hall for assembly to begin and to tuck your shirts in!

Know that your teachers are all very proud of you and they miss you lots. They all love hearing from you and it helps brighten their day. Children are the best way to make teachers smile!

I will continue to read and record short stories for you at home. It is quite embarrassing for me, but I love hearing that you are enjoying them.

You are all wonderful. Stay strong. Be happy.

With love,

Mrs. Harrison