

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

My first thought each morning is that everyone is safe and well. In these most difficult times that is the most important thing.

We continue to live in strange times and I appreciate the difficulties you are all facing. Working from home is a huge challenge when trying to facilitate home learning for your children and especially now the weather has changed. Please be kind to yourselves and put mental health and well-being before anything else. People are anxious and worried and children are no different. I can assure you that when we welcome the children back we will smother them with support and love. Please try not to worry too much. We are always here – the school phone will be answered, even out of office hours – please call if you need us.

Hopefully everyone will have spoken to staff at school, either myself or the class teachers and it has been wonderful to hear you all. We desperately miss school life and the children and pray for normality to return. We have seen a number of you as you send pictures and cards into school and some have even delivered cakes. I have, at safe social distance, also visited some families. As stated previously, if you are struggling or know someone is, please get in touch. We can help!

Unfortunately though we still do not know what will happen with schools, the only guidance so far came from the secretary of state for education who said schools would open in 'phases.' We do not know how this will look but we are starting to plan. When we know I will let you know immediately.

Some good news! Over the summer we will be receiving new boilers and new girls' and boys' toilets. The boilers, for obvious reasons, need to move above ground and will take over some of the existing girls' toilets. The toilets will therefore move to where the library is now and the library will move to the other part of the existing toilets. In the meantime we had already planned to refurbish the boys' toilets. It is a huge (and complicated) undertaking and is coming at great cost. Fortunately though as we pay into the Diocese Building Fund we only have to pay 10%. Something to look forward to!

Please stay safe, please stay well.

God bless

Mark Mountcastle