

Friday 8th May

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

I continue daily to pray for your safety and well-being – I do hope everyone is staying safe – it is the most important thing in such uncertain times.

It is rather unbelievable that next week is the eighth since school has been closed and whilst many of you are in a solid routine I do know some families are struggling. Please be assured we are here and will help and support where we can. Some children are beginning to show signs of anxiety – the phone will be answered and emails responded to. In addition I know some are struggling financially. Again we can help, in confidence. We are here if you need us.

Over the weekend we are expecting announcements to be made regarding next steps. I have no inside knowledge and I could be wrong but please prepare for at least a few more weeks of closure. Following that we are told schools will only open partially and even though we do not know how that will look we are planning for each eventuality. If an announcement is made that schools will open, please do not bombard school with calls and emails. Please be assured we will make a plan and share with you when it is ready. The most important thing is the health, safety and well-being of all the children, their families and the staff. This will be our number one consideration before opening. When we know I will let you know. In the meantime please ignore the press speculation and the headlines. The detail will only come from the DfE – not Facebook or the Daily Mail.

Moving forward the staff will be planning weekly tasks for home learning which will be uploaded to the school website ready for Monday each week. We never claim to get it right and we never claim to be the best, you may even find better resources on the internet, there are many. However we do know our families and we strive to provide something for everyone. Please remember not every child has access to their own electrical device and not every household has adequate broadband. Blank exercise books are available in reception, please help yourselves. Please also keep your pictures and work coming, either delivered to the office or to @StHughPrimary on Twitter, especially today as we celebrate VE Day! It really is great to see how you are all getting on.

My message remains clear. Work little and often and be led by your child. Please do not cause additional stress for you or your children. What we all need at these most difficult of times is reassurance, love and support. I can assure you that when we welcome you all back, whenever that may be, your children will be wrapped in our love. We will recover – we will return.

Please keep safe, keep well.

God bless

Mark Mountcastle