



PURSTON INFANT SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and carers,

The main reason for writing to you today is just to say **'Well done and thank you.'**

Over the last 3 weeks you have really pulled out the stops and supported your children and us, whilst juggling work, technical devices that have a mind of their own and coping with a worldwide pandemic. It is not easy, but you making the effort with your children to engage with any of the online remote learning will have a massive effect on their education and their well-being. **You are super stars.**

Curriculum

This lock down is different to the first lock down. The curriculum has not been paused or stopped so we have to ensure the children keep learning through well planned often innovative means, continuing their learning in partnership with you. As well as the learning, it is vital that home and school keep in regular communication using class dojo, live learning, photographs / videos, email or by phone. It has been fantastic and very up lifting to us in school seeing what your children are doing at home. From my personal point of view, looking at different designs for dinosaurs underpants, participating in Mrs Gascoyne's workout session (tough or what!!) and hearing children trying so hard with their phonics live has really made me smile and I am very proud of each of them. Please keep sending in your super work to us. We are creating displays of your work in school, on the website and in digital format on computer. This means we celebrate the hard work you are doing.

Safeguarding

Every time you and your child engage and interact with school we record it. As we would do on a normal school day, we keep a record of this and assess what they have done. Each day the teachers have to report to myself who is or is not engaging in some way. Part of our role is to ensure the safety and welfare of our children. **Over 90% of our families either have engaged with us or their children are in school. Congratulations, you are all superb.**

I have a virtual meeting with the local authority every week where I have to report and discuss the details of families not engaging. From this meeting decisions are made as to whether to include Social Services, the Education Welfare service or the police.

If you are not engaging, not replying on dojo, not answering your telephone numbers then this is as concerning as your child not attending school under normal circumstances. This then leads to Mrs Gascoyne, Mrs Dyas, or myself visiting your home to check on the well-being and safety of your child and yourself. We have had to undertake five of these visits in

the last week. If we were unable to see the child and see that they are safe, this will lead to the local police investigating. They will make welfare checks on the child, family and relatives until they see the child is safe. This is a last but necessary resort, as I am sure you will agree.

Testing kits

You may be aware that testing kits have been provided to school by the government. These are for staff in primary schools to have the opportunity of regular testing. It is believed that this will combat against asymptomatic (no symptoms) transmission. **They will not be administered to the children.**

Wider reopening

Currently, we have no further details on the full reopening of school. The government announcement this week said we will be given two weeks' notice when more or all children will be allowed back in. As soon as we receive any guidance, I will inform you.

Our school is not closed, we are most definitely open. Exactly the same as when all children are on school site we are here for them and you. If there is anything we can help you with then please do get in touch. I have spoken to several parents this week and the support we have given each other is magnificent.

I must at this point say a massive thanks to my staff who are all amazing. They are working in school and at home (sometimes with their own children at home) and like you are juggling work, families and coping with a worldwide pandemic. They are committed to ensuring our children continue to learn and make progress by whatever means necessary.

Let us stay safe, support each other and remember to smile and make others smile.

Take care.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Barnett

Headteacher

The Designated Senior Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection is the Headteacher, Philip Barnett, supported by the Deputy Headteacher, Alison Gascoyne and Family Support Worker, Kerry Dyas.

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