



Montpelier Primary School
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Date: 25th March 2020

Dear Parents,

After a very intense period of communication things are now starting to quieten down in terms of important information that we need to get to you.

Key Worker Parents

Following a lot of work on key worker parents at the end of last week it became apparent that we had just over 220 pupils who had one or more parents who are key workers. This was not going to be sustainable to manage while also following the government guidance that had been issued at that time of minimising social contact and avoiding unnecessary travel. Therefore, over the weekend I made the incredibly difficult decision to say that we could only provide care for children where both parents are key workers. Since the Prime Minister's announcement of a 'lock down' on Monday night I know that this was the right decision. It means that I can run with a skeleton staff and try and look after the safety of as many people as possible. If this situation should change in the coming weeks and we can expand the number of places we can offer then we will change this to one key worker.

So far only two members of staff have self-isolated due to suspected symptoms where for other staff it has been because they are vulnerable. This is an incredibly low number considering that we have a staff of 70. We will keep the school running for key worker parents, and vulnerable children, for as long as we have the staff to do it. We will only shut our doors if we have all staff in self-isolation or we receive further instructions from the government. We have made the decision to remain open all over Easter, including the bank holiday Friday and Monday. It will just be weekends that the school is shut. My staff continue to be exceptional.

Headship Team Email

Some parents have been struggling with the Headship Team email. I think that is my error as I typed it with a mistake in a previous letter! The email is headshipteam@mpsplymouth.net and will be checked daily. There is also admin@mpsplymouth.net and the school phone number during school hours on all weekdays, including the Easter holidays. Please get in touch with us if you are concerned for your family or that of another pupil, you are in need of practical support or you just fancy a chat because you are all out of behaviour strategies or you just need to hear a friendly voice. We are a school family and we are here for you.

Home Learning

We hope that you are enjoying the home learning activities and challenges that we are updating each day. For those of you who are unsure, you just need the same link that was originally sent out to you last week and keep going back to the same place. There will be new challenges each day. Don't forget that these challenges are optional. The most important thing for all our children at the moment is that they feel safe and happy and loved at this time. The last thing you need is to have something causing stress in your household. The daily activities will pause over the two week Easter holidays. We have sent out plenty of links to websites as we had lots of requests for those but think that you have probably all got enough to keep you going for now.

Staying Connected Through Facebook

I will be posting a 'hello' video every week day while the school is closed. This is just a way to keep us all connected at this time and is for the whole family. There will be activities, challenges, suggestions etc. We currently have a 'bouncy blue egg' experiment on the go. There is also a 'weigh your clothes challenge'! The video today explains that there will be bedtime stories posted tonight at about 6pm for you to use when you want them. We are also going to have a whole school assembly this Friday afternoon so I have requested for anyone to send in photos or emails (not videos) of things that they have been up to that we can share. We also need a song for the weekend so send in your recommendations! Please click 'share' so that as many of our families get access to these videos as possible.

Anything Else?

Thank you for all of the positive feedback that we have had about the communication from school. If there is something that you think we are missing in terms of keeping you up to date then please let us know.

Stay safe and well.



Sam Hunter
Headteacher