



Montpelier Primary School
North Down Rd, Beacon Park, Plymouth, PL2 3HN
Tel: 01752 216160
e-mail: admin@mpsplymouth.net
Web site: www.montpelierprimary.co.uk



Date: 30th April 2020

Dear Parents,

First of all, I hope that this email finds you and your families well. I don't know about you but feeling 'well' encompasses so many aspects at the moment and also changes all the time. One moment I feel 'well' within myself and then the next moment I am having a good cry. One day I feel as if I am on top of things and the next I feel overwhelmed. All I know is I no longer have a 'normal' for 'well'! There is also feeling physically well and I know that some of our families have been very poorly and that C19 has changed their families forever. We are thinking of you.

I wanted to write to you just to let you know about some of the things that are happening within our school family at the moment and some of the things that have been going on behind the scenes.

Communication:

Earlier this year we sent out a communication to explain how we would be using our different forms of communication for different purposes. I appreciate that since the school closure we have not been using them in the ways that were stated. Instead, we are focusing on two main channels to communicate with our families at the moment. First is by letter/email. This remains for key information that we want to make sure that all parents (or certain groups of parents) receive. Secondly is through our Facebook page. This is the quickest and easiest way to share photos, videos, ideas, challenges and general family news too uplift and inspire. Please remember that you do not need to be on Facebook yourself to access this. Just go to the homepage of our school website and follow the big blue F and you will see it all.

Home Learning:

Parent feedback has been overwhelmingly positive for the home learning pages. These will continue to be updated daily in term time - although watch out for a Bank Holiday break next Friday! Remember that you are welcome to dip into another year group's page if you wish. I also want to stress that these home learning pages are there for you if and when you need them or have the capacity to access them. Each family is managing under very different circumstances. That is why we are not 'collecting work in'. Please do not feel guilty if there are days when no home learning happens. It will be our job to manage any gaps when we do get back to school. All will be well. The only thing as parents you need to focus on is making sure you all feel safe and loved.

Key Worker Parents:

We are aware that parents' work situations continue to change and as the weeks go on then there are new demands being placed on family dynamics and working patterns. Currently we are open for children in the 'vulnerable' category and also children with 'double' key worker parents. We are in the process of looking to see how that can evolve, but safely, for more key worker families. If you have registered with us at some point to say that an adult within your family is a key worker then you should be receiving an email from us by the weekend. If you have not received one and you think that you should have please just give us a ring. It will just be that your name has slipped between the various lists that we have.

Hug Hampers:

The response to our hampers has been just unbelievable - the most enormous hug ever! We are ready to send our first hampers out. PLEASE make sure that you let us know if you would benefit from one at this time. Equally, you might want to get in touch to nominate a family who would benefit but who might not ask themselves.

The Family Quiz:

If you have emailed in to say you want to take part in the quiz then you will have received a link and a password. You can login and enter the 'waiting room' and the doors will open at 6pm. I am very excited about this although I have no idea how well it will work! Please be patient with my hubby and I - we have 50 families in the mix so anything could happen. If you can have your microphone turned off during the quiz that will help so that everyone can hear the instructions - plus no one can hear you discussing your answers! If it works well then we will do another one soon.

Big School Music Video:

After the amazing response for the staff 'toilet roll' video, we want to have a go at doing one with families in it too! You may have seen Peter Kay's 'Is this the way to Amarillo' video that was made for the Big Night In. I have put in the link below. That is what we are going to attempt to do! You need to send in to the school office a video of your children or the whole family doing the 'walking on the spot' and a bit of the clapping too if you can manage it. PLEASE FILM IT IN LANDSCAPE. Mr Farr will then attempt to put it all together. Obviously only send this in if you are happy to be on our Facebook page. Can you please get these into school by the end of the Bank Holiday weekend - bedtime on Sunday 10th May. Can't wait!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XhPQ6fnXc>

End of Year Arrangements:

We continue to receive daily updates from the Local Authority and the Department for Education. We are waiting for the lockdown review next Thursday to understand further the possible timescales for schools re-opening. Schools currently do not know any more than that which is being shared in the public forum. We have discussed issues such as school reports, class swaps and class transitions and have plan As and Bs in place at the moment. When we get to half term we will be in a better place to make decisions. We are also making arrangements for our new Foundation stage arrivals and how we can welcome them into the school as well as liaising with secondary schools around Year 6 transition arrangements. We didn't receive any 'What if...' questions from parents last time I wrote to you all but if you do think of anything you think would be useful to know then please shout.

I would like to thank the governors for their support at this time. They have been with us every step of the way, whether by Zoom meetings or telephone calls or emails.

I hope that this letter has been helpful in keeping you informed and also connected.

My very best wishes,

Sam

Mrs S Hunter
Headteacher

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XhPQ6fnXc>