



Friday 8th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you and your loved ones are all safe and well?

As we finish another week of 'not being in school' I just wanted to say a big hello to everyone in our community and to remind you all that we have not forgotten you, and that you are always on our minds.

We still miss the children, enormously. I can tell you from me that I am finding, not being in school every day and seeing your children learn and grow - a really big strain! It's an awful feeling - not being able to do the job you love, the way you used to do it. Being a teacher (just like a parent) is who we are. Not just what we do.

However, at this moment in time we have to keep safe and listen to the scientists. The Prime Minister will be speaking to the nation on Sunday and I have no more information than you do about what he will say? At some point things will change and we will be allowed to open the school further, in whatever way we are told. We have been told that when that happens, we will be given at least three week's notice.

When the time comes, we will be ready to welcome children back in whatever way the government tell us to. Let's hope that Boris's speech on Sunday gives us a clear idea of what happens next?

As you will know there has been plenty of work set by teachers throughout the year groups. Can I say a massive thank you to those parents and carers at home who have been able to find time to work with their children and post back comments on Tapestry and Seesaw. Equally, I recognise the enormous pressure there is to support children at this time. Having three of my own. I know it is not easy. As we say in Stockwell, 'Try your best!' It's all we can ask. Even the

A: Stockwell Academy, Dodswell Grove, Greatfield Estate, Hull, HU9 5HY
T: 01482 782122
E: admin@stockwell.hull.sch.uk
W: www.stockwell.hull.sch.uk
Principal: Mr C J Coulter



smallest bite-sizes of work will help. It keeps routines up and sanity levels in check (Mostly!).

As you are aware from my last letter, teachers are calling parents to see if everyone is OK? Staff miss the children and love the calls to children and parents. It is our way of connecting with our community, so we know you are OK and find out if you need any help? I know from the last two week's of phone calls that it has been a welcome conversation for many of you, as well as us.

The local City Council have just this week tasked schools to make sure they know how their children are getting on? What would be helpful for us is, for those parents who get a phone call from an unknown caller to answer it. It will probably be your child's class teacher! If not. Hang up! If you do just one school related thing next week -have a chat with your child's class teacher and put your child on to say hello. We are not checking how much work you've done. We are just connecting with you and your family during these difficult days.

Finally, we had a virtual assembly today using the Oak Academy website / YouTube link, that was shared with you. It talked about Hope and what that means. We need to remind our children that to get through this period of time we need to keep positive, stay patient and keep going even though the pressure is on. This will give us all a future to believe in! It will give us Hope!

Don't forget, please contact us at school if you need anything.

Have a lovely VE bank holiday weekend. Keep smiling and don't forget to use your never-ending supply of Stockwell Spirit!

Mr Coulter

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