



Boughton-under-Blean & Dunkirk Methodist Primary School

Forgiveness Friendship Trust Justice Perseverance
Communication Independence Aspiration Engagement



8th January 2021

Dear Parents

We have made it to the end of the first week of term and I would first of all like to say well done. The response to the home learning has been excellent but I know that this has not been easy. There is a balance to be had in terms of the work set because every child is different and all home circumstances are different. I think we are getting the balance right but it is very much a balance. I am in contact with other headteachers and the queries and concerns about home learning are the same in every school. That's because the pressure on parents and staff is the same everywhere.

However it becomes increasingly frustrating that the government does not recognise this. I have no answer to what should be done instead but continue to be fearful for the safety of the children and staff in school as well as the education of all the children generally. I do not think there are many headteachers that could say that they feel supported by the government at this time and there is a worry that something will have to give. We have been informed that on Wednesday there were over 21,500 key worker and vulnerable children in schools across Kent compared to approximately an average of 5000 during the last 'closure' in May, whilst at the same time the expectation for home learning within the statutory guidance is much higher during this closure. If the numbers increase it will be interesting to see how schools are able to manage both. Then again perhaps we should look at this in a different way and seeing how hospitals are at breaking point with Covid cases reminds us how lucky we are to be healthy and well as well as demonstrating how we must all try so hard to reduce the social contact we have and follow the restrictions set.

I apologise for that rather bleak opening to a letter, it was hardly uplifting after a difficult week. I hope you are all well. We are all missing the children and really don't want you or the children to forget that you all remain part of the school community. If we can help with anything please contact us. So many of you have already and it fills me with pride that we are a place that you can come to when times are tough. Please tell the children that we are missing them and that we are proud of the way they are coping. Hopefully they have been working hard and I hope they are remembering the values that mean so much to us.



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At the start of each term I remind them of the importance of saying please and thank you and for respecting those around us. (If as parents you would also like to say to your children that Mr Way would like to remind everyone of the importance of tidying their bedroom and helping to lay the table then please feel free – I'm not adverse to a little parent solidarity if it helps...). I will write to the children each week and so I would be grateful if that could be shared with them. The first message to them is at the end of this letter.

Please take care and try to enjoy your weekend. It is cold and there isn't much to do but you have each other and you have your children. They rely on us adults to make it all right and we must take solace in that. Please do keep safe and of course follow the strict rules so that we can find our way through it. The light does still remain small at the moment but it is definitely there so try not lose sight of that.

'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it' (John 1:5)

Yours sincerely

Mr S J Way

Dear Children

Oh dear, here we are again! Or rather there you are, at home and not in school and I think every one of us finds that sad. All the teachers are here in school working hard to set your work and respond to your messages and although they are all missing you they are really pleased with how much work you have done. They miss the fun that you bring to the school and the way you want to learn so much, the jokes and conversations that you have with them and the excitement that you show when talking about your weekends or something new that you have discovered. But mainly they miss teaching you, properly teaching you, and seeing how the learning helps you grow and develop and become wise and intelligent. They can't see that when you're at home just as you can't see how happy and proud you make them feel when you get something right, overcome a barrier or produce an amazing piece of work. However they are also happy that you are working hard and trying your best. Of course I wish you were all here too and miss our assemblies, saying hello in the mornings and popping into your classroom to see what you are doing - although I'm not sure the teachers miss me doing that! I look forward to when we can all return and be together as a school once more.

I will write to you again at the beginning of next week and may even have a very short task for you to do so look out for that. In the meantime I hope that you are being helpful and kind to your parents and any brothers and sisters that you have. Remember our school prayer and remember that last word before we say Amen. It is 'today'. We should do all the good that we can 'today'. Regardless of your mood or sadness everyone around you deserves you to be doing all the good that you can today.

Dear God

*Help us to do all the good that we can,
In all the ways that we can
At all the times that we can
To all the people that we can,
Today
Amen*

Mr Way