

24th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Staff,

### Updates

- As you will know, last night, Boris Johnson announced strict new measures to tackle the spread of coronavirus, including a ban on public gatherings of more than two people. It was emphasised that we face a "moment of national emergency" and that staying at home is necessary to protect the NHS, to save lives and tackle "the biggest threat this country has faced for decades." With this in mind, today we have been re-contacting as many families as possible to encourage those children who can safely remain at home to do so, so that we only remain open for those children who absolutely need to attend. In this way we will all be able to play a role in limiting the chance of the virus spreading.
- Thank you for all your support in this respect; we fully appreciate how challenging this next period of time will potentially be.
- Apologies if for some reason we have not managed to contact you – you will not believe the sheer volume of emails and phone calls we have been making and receiving, both to and from families and staff, over the past couple of days!
- Over the next 6 days (up until the Easter holidays) a small number of pupils will continue to come into School.
  - We have the staffing capacity to support this, and it also means that we can place those staff that are available to work on a rota, thus supporting the safety and wellbeing of as many individuals across our School community as possible.
  - Where possible we have endeavoured to allocate staff to pupils that they are familiar with. As we are sure you appreciate, this has not always been possible to do.
  - If any of these pupils are going to be absent, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can adjust our plans.
  - Our approach will see us adopting social distancing advice – meaning that each pupil will be working in a different space, with a small team of staff working around them. We have also carefully restricted the sections of the building that will be operational, to enable ongoing deep cleaning of the rest of the School to continue.
  - Sincere thanks to:
    - Our on-site paediatric nurses for the support that they will continue to provide in terms of medication administration.
    - The staff that are able to come into work – we are overwhelmed by your support.
- We can confirm that Morrison's vouchers are being posted to those families who are eligible for free school meals, and have requested this support. These vouchers will cover the period of time from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March to Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Post Easter, we are exploring various options for pupils that are entitled to free school meals.
- If you are not already aware, Body Coach Joe Wicks has launched 'PE with Joe'; these are live PE sessions on YouTube for children off school during the coronavirus outbreak. We understand that he attracted an audience of around 800,000 people for the first of his home-

based workouts, aimed at keeping kids active while they are not in school. 'PE With Joe' is available on Joe Wicks' channel – The Body Coach TV. It is on air at 9am from Monday to Friday and if you miss the live stream you can catch up with it later on his channel.

- We have been inundated with requests from our amazing staff team who are unfortunately unwell or having to self-isolate, but remain keen to continue working and supporting the School in some way. We have therefore relented and sent them some suggested activities – thank you all for your continued outstanding support. Please take care all!
- We have continued to work closely with colleagues at the Local Authority, KCC transport, our catering contractor, transport providers and Social Services. We cannot speak highly enough of the partnership work that is going on behind the scenes in support of both our immediate community and beyond.
- As advised in previous updates, as our service continues to evolve, we have been working extensively on our 'support functions.' In this respect, please see below an update from Scot Greathead (Assistant Headteacher) regarding the communication strategies that are being developed.

## **Keep Five Acre Wood Talking!**

Staying connected is really important and will be even more important at the moment whilst we are working, living and learning in different ways! We also know that it might be more difficult than usual for you to stay in touch with those professionals who work with you and your family. We want you to know that we will be working extra hard to make sure that we **keep Five Acre Wood talking** whilst children are not attending school in the usual way.

### **We will be focussing our energies on four areas...**

- Helping you keep busy
- Helping you stay healthy
- Helping you stay safe
- Helping you stay connected

### **Some of the things we will be doing to keep us connected**

- Weekly phone calls to every parent
- Extending the ways that you can talk to our therapy team... watch out for opportunities to video call and 'ask the MDT' questions about how to support you child at home
- Extending our website with activities and ideas to support your child's learning, play, independence and communication
- Sharing stories from our families about the supports they are using at home with their children!
- Our amazing family support team will be still available to support in all of the ways that you're used to








### **5 things you can do right now**

1. Join our Facebook page: Five Acre Wood School and Friends of Five Acre Wood School
2. Download the Parentmail app
3. Make sure that we have an up to date phone number and email address
4. Drop a message to another parent at Five Acre to say 'Hi!'

- Have a think about the conversations that your class teacher will be having with you later this week. You can use the visual below to guide you

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience whilst we get things going! In the meantime, if you need to get in touch then please use our usual email addresses.

## #KeepFiveAcreWoodTalking

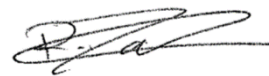
			
 <b>"Keeping busy"</b>	<i>We don't have enough to do and I don't know where to get ideas from</i>	<i>Getting there! We're looking for new ideas at the moment</i>	<i>I have enough to keep the kids busy!</i>
 <b>"Keeping healthy"</b>	<i>I don't think my family are very healthy at the moment and I don't know what to do</i>	<i>We're mostly healthy – and we know what we need to be doing</i>	<i>We're all healthy</i>
 <b>"Keeping safe"</b>	<i>I don't feel that my family are safe at the moment and I'm not sure what to do</i>	<i>We're mostly safe but I have a plan and I'm putting it in place</i>	<i>We all feel safe</i>
 <b>"Keeping connected"</b>	<i>I feel very isolated at the moment and I'm not sure where to get support from</i>	<i>I'd like to be in contact with more people and am working on building connections</i>	<i>I'm feeling well connected and supported by the people around me</i>

Take care all.

Kind regards



**Tim Williams**  
(Headteacher, Boughton Lane)



**Richard Dalton**  
(Headteacher, Satellite Provision)

