

Jessop Stockwell Federation Lead Headteacher: Ms A.Parker

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I do hope you are all well and our new arrangements are beginning to settle. The great weather is a good sign that great times are ahead and that this will pass. COVID-19 has enforced the concept of 'considering others' on a global scale. Let us take the opportunity to embrace this. I ask that you reflect on the last time you noticed your elderly neighbour's curtain twitch or how, locally, you can work together to reduce the pressure on local supermarkets for the good of us all.

I write to inform you with more updates and information that you need to be aware of.

In families of key workers where a pupil place has been declined by the school, it is purely on the basis that <u>every child that can be safely cared for at home should be</u>. This is the government guideline and the expectation that we must apply to keep our pupil numbers as low as possible. It is clear from the guidance that this will apply to some Key Workers. As a school, we are doing our absolute best to remain open; however, we are dependent on the remarkable support of our staff members and the risk they are willing to accept. We must, therefore, secure appropriate social distancing with the numbers of children against the staffing levels that we are able to achieve. It is also helpful for you to know that these staffing levels are changing daily, as more staff have the need to self-isolate over time, putting a real pressure on our ability to support you. Therefore, if a pupil place has been declined, please source other arrangements.

We have been informed that some parents have received an email stating the following: 'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported'.

We can confirm that this is a scam email and is not official. We urge parents that if you receive any emails of this nature, please do not respond, and delete them immediately. Please note, we will never ask for your bank details.

Top tips to keep you going...

- Establish a routine and stick to it. It works for us! When children know what to expect, and when, they will work with you.
- Stick to your bedtime routine. They will say, 'We have no school tomorrow' but do not be fooled. They will be cranky the next day and take it out on you! It is also vital that you have some downtime before bed. That moment when they are asleep, you get to socialise. Online of course!
- I know children behave differently at school! Why not draft in friends to set tasks and check up on each other's children? Online of course!
- Why not treat your child/ren to a virtual play date? There are digital platforms where multiple people can come together for a bit of face time with their friends. This could give you a little respite too!

Keep inside, keep safe and I will keep in touch!

Yours sincerely,

Ms A. Parker Lead Headteacher



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