

Bringing out the Best in Everyone. 'Encourage one another and build each other up.' Thessalonians 5:11

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020

# Dear Parents

Last Friday was an extremely sad day as we closed our doors to our wonderful Tilston School. We remain open to a very small number of children whose parents are on the frontline, and we are providing childcare to enable them to respond to the Covid-19. We will continue to support children's learning at home via the School Spider platform. Over the past seven days things have moved rapidly and as a nation we are currently on lockdown. The decision to close schools was the right decision and if we all continue to follow government guidance, we will be able to reopen as soon as it is safe to do so. Please keep yourselves and your families safe and we hope to see you all soon.

# Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind words over the past few days. We have received many positive emails saying the online learning is very helpful. We do appreciate you are all working from home and have your own work commitments too. Please do not feel under pressure to complete all the tasks if you are unable to do so. The work is set to support your child's learning at home and to provide a range of activities.

## School

We are currently staffing school with a skeleton staffing structure to ensure we are keeping our staff safe as well as reducing the risk of infection to our children in school. We are working through the remote learning activities each morning and having fun in the sun. School feels very different without you all and we are eagerly waiting for the day when we can welcome you all back!

## Communication

I am attending daily briefings with Cheshire West and Chester and The National Association for Headteachers (remotely) and will keep you updated of any significant changes.

The government are monitoring the impact of the lockdown over the next three weeks. We currently do not have any information regarding an anticipated date for reopening. I will continue to write a weekly newsletter, a little different to the usual celebratory one, however I hope it keeps you updated.

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#### Well done

I am very impressed at the quality of work being shared via the Pupil Area. The children are sharing very positive messages with each other and with staff. We are enjoying seeing what the children are doing at home. Please keep the photographs and lovely comments coming in. We are missing seeing their smiles, hearing them laughing around school and even hearing 'Miss' a million times a day!

## Community

I have seen lots of fantastic ideas on Twitter where communities are spreading a little happiness. As we all face uncertain times it is important to keep spirits high. We have been busy painting rainbows in school and displaying them in our windows. Please join us in displaying a rainbow in your window at home and let's keep Tilston smiling together!



#### Sharing

I will add a section to the newsletter each week where you are free to share any great ideas. These can range from different craft activities, games you have designed as a family or any other way you are coping as a family during this lockdown. Please email your ideas to <u>admin@tilston.cheshire.sch.uk</u> by lunchtime every Thursday and we will add them to our weekly newsletter. We are all here to help and support each other and I hope this will create a support network within our Tilston School family.

#### **Easter Holidays**

We will be breaking up On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April for our Easter holidays. There will be no work set via School Spider during this two week break. We will continue to set work remotely from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April or until we are advised by the government that it is safe to reopen our school.

# **Youngminds**

## Mental Health and wellbeing

If you have any concerns for your child's health and wellbeing during these challenging times please see the advice on: <u>www.youngminds.org.uk</u>. The Young Minds provide help and guidance for parents. This help can be found via this website.

#### On a positive note.....

The sun is shining, and we are blessed to have our health and happiness. Keep each other safe and enjoy this special time together. Keep in touch with loved ones and check in on elderly neighbours.

Best wishes

K Mort

. Kelsey Mort Headteacher

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