

We are still here for you!

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope you are all well and keeping safe during the national lockdown. It is certainly a very strange time for us all but it is important that you know that **we are still here for you**. Although the office staff are working at home, if you ring school on 0115 9150195 your call will be diverted to Mrs Voce and she will forward any queries to the relevant member of staff. If you are not sure who to speak to and are worried about your child, please ask for your message to be forwarded to Ms Aggus and she will follow up your call. Teachers are very happy to call children who would benefit from speaking to their teacher.

School has remained open for the children of key workers when there are no other options for childcare and for vulnerable children in line with the Government directive. However, as the country is still in lockdown, home remains the safest place for your children.

Homework and on line learning

We produced substantial homework packs for your children when the school closed and teachers have produced new packs that can be collected from school next week. We aim to continue to produce these packs every three weeks to supplement the projects that are being posted every two weeks on the school website. As you can imagine copying packs for over 460 children is a massive task, unfortunately it isn't possible to post these out, so we are therefore asking you to collect them from school at the following times:

Monday 27th – Years 5 & 6

Tuesday 28th – Years 3 & 4

Wednesday 29th – Years 1 & 2

Thursday 30th – Foundation Stage

Please collect the packs between **1pm and 2:30pm**. They will put them in labelled boxes outside the school reception. You will not need to enter the school building. Please observe social distancing if other parents are collecting at the same time. If you have a child in another year group, please ask at reception, so that you can take their pack also to save you coming to school twice. If you have difficulty collecting the packs, please ring or email school to let us know and we will do our very best to try and get the packs to you.

In addition to the packs to be collected and the projects on the website, we are setting up an online learning platform called Seesaw. We are hoping we will be able to send you details of this and your child's login details next week, we will also be using some of the governments recommended home learning materials from Oak Academy as well as our own. Children will also be able to securely upload their homework for their teacher to respond to. We are also updating our website regularly with educational websites that we think will benefit our children. Mr Rose, our very own Joe Wicks, has also added some power points on how to keep fit at home during lockdown. You will find all these resources under the 'Children' heading on the school website and click on the subheading 'Homework'. If you click on the subheading 'Stories'

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staff are adding clips of themselves reading stories. We thought this would be a great way of children still seeing their teachers! Our website address is www.windmillacademy.co.uk.

Safeguarding our Children

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare, please do not hesitate to call the school to report a concern. We are all still at work and would respond immediately to this. Another way to report a concern is to complete a simple form on the school website. There is a link that says 'Report a Concern' on the main page, this will send an email straight to the Designated Safeguarding Leads, myself, James Colvin and Katy Aggus.

It has also been highlighted to me that some parents have been worried about seeking medical assistance if their child is ill, thinking that they shouldn't due to the coronavirus. NHS have been very clear that if you or someone you care for is ill, you must seek medical help. If in doubt, please ring **NHS 111** or your local GP Surgery for advice.

We have also added on our website under the heading 'Useful Information' a sub-heading 'Mental Health and Well-being', on this page you can find some information to help with mental health and well-being during this difficult and testing time.

Children are using the Internet even more than usual, we need to make sure that they remain safe. Please look at the online safety page on our website for information.

'Power in Me' – Windmill staff present a special treat for our children

If you ask your child what is one of their favourite songs they sing in Ms Boyce's singing assemblies, they will undoubtedly say 'Power in Me', an uplifting song about how we have the power in us to change things even when things aren't going well. Resilience being one of our school values, we talk a lot about being able to bounce back when things don't go well. Miss Aggus has put together a great medley of staff doing this special song for our children. We thought children would like to be able to see staff during this time and know that we are all missing them and will be here for them when they return to school. We hope you will enjoy it! Here is the link for you <https://youtu.be/iqSbnCxLSbw>. Enjoy!

Free School Meals

So far, families entitled to free school meals (FSM) have received vouchers to use at supermarkets and will continue to do so. The office staff have worked hard to sort this out, please ensure that we have your email addresses as the new government scheme will require you to have an email address. You will know if you are entitled to free school meals as you will have completed forms and be registered through Nottingham City Council, who then send us your details. This has been confusing for some, as all Key Stage One children receive a free meal at school as part of a government wide initiative but this doesn't necessarily mean that your family is entitled to FSMs, you will have applied and have a letter to prove this.

We have been offered free bagels and breakfast cereals from Magic Breakfast, who usually supply us with our morning bagels. If you are entitled to Free School Meals and would like to collect some food, then please come to school on **Friday 1st May between 1pm and 2:30pm**. If you are not entitled to FSM but are experiencing financial hardship, please ring the school and we will try to sort something out for you.

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Keep safe

Finally, please keep safe and well. As yet we do not know when schools will return but the staff and I very much look forward to this day to continue to serve our wonderful Windmill community. We shall keep you updated through letters, texts and the website and please remember we are still here for you now.

Best wishes

Teresa Shrestha

Headteacher



Damien Hirst



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