



# **MELLOR PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**KNOWLE ROAD · MELLOR · STOCKPORT · SK6 5PL · TEL: 0161-427-1052 · FAX: 0161-427 3646**

**WEBSITE: [www.mellor.stockport.sch.uk](http://www.mellor.stockport.sch.uk)**

**HEADTEACHER · MR. J.E. NICHOLSON B.A. HONS., P.G.C.E., N.P.Q.H.**

**Company Number 7737398**

31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has only been seven 'normal' working days since we said goodbye at the gate and I don't know about you but that seems an age already. Our children, parents, carers and wider family members are already very much missed. You are all our extended family.

I must thank you for the cards, emails and expressions of support that we have received; for the offers of voluntary help and the positive comments received regarding the learning resources we have posted on our website. These all reflect the special community we are a part of.

Of course, we aim to do more to support you in the coming weeks. Learning from home in the context that you are experiencing is something utterly new and presents challenges that we will do our utmost to help you with.

In order to create a long term practical solution, I've been working with colleagues across the country. At the same time, Ms. Parkin has been developing the resources on our website in coordination with the teaching team.

Learning from a distance or home learning is very much in its infancy and there are a huge range of factors that must be considered. There needs to be a joint understanding across our whole sector and community about the issues that exist so that we can develop this together. We appreciate the feedback from our recent survey monkey concerning your experiences of supporting learning from home and this has helped us glean key information.

From the knowledge we have gathered across all our forums, we have a clear understanding that learning from home requires us to think about the following:

- The sorts of resources that are available at home.
- The balance of activity/downtime and the time that parents are available to support learning.
- The differing family structures that exist and their impact on learning.
- Families have different views on how much direction they want for their children.
- The fact that family based learning is much more intense due to a 1 to 1 situation.
- School based learning is different because children respond to the learning habits of their peers.
- Different age groups require different approaches and that can be difficult for families to manage.
- Consider new elements of safeguarding that present as we introduce new technology for learning.

All of the above are also then compounded with the knowledge of how teachers teach and the relationship dynamic that is different for teacher-child compared to parent-child. There is so much to consider.

The Mellor team are working on how we enable children to communicate with their teachers. We are looking quickly at new technologies and how we will facilitate learning.

At a time of such stress and complexity, there are some positives that have come forward:

- Spending time as a family is a treasured opportunity.
- This is a great chance for us to reframe, to rethink, and to reconsider how education will be in the future.
- The poem that I shared by Kitty O'Meara summed up the feelings and I understand that it has been shared extensively.

This week, we'd like to share the following obtained from a website called Letters of Note:

*North Brooklin, Maine*

*30 March 1973*

*Dear Mr. Nadeau,*

*As long as there is one upright man, as long as there is one compassionate woman, the contagion may spread and the scene is not desolate. Hope is the thing that is left to us, in a bad time. I shall get up Sunday morning and wind the clock, as a contribution to order and steadfastness.*

*Sailors have an expression about the weather: they say, the weather is a great bluffer. I guess the same is true of our human society—things can look dark, then a break shows in the clouds, and all is changed, sometimes rather suddenly. It is quite obvious that the human race has made a queer mess of life on this planet. But as a people we probably harbor seeds of goodness that have lain for a long time waiting to sprout when the conditions are right. Man's curiosity, his relentlessness, his inventiveness, his ingenuity have led him into deep trouble. We can only hope that these same traits will enable him to claw his way out.*

*Hang on to your hat. Hang on to your hope. And wind the clock, for tomorrow is another day.*

*Sincerely,*

*[Signed, 'E. B. White']*

We will keep you up to date of any changes and development and in the meantime, please stay safe and look after each other.

With kindest regards,



J.E. Nicholson  
Headteacher