



MELLOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Company Number 7737398



5th May, 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I'd like to begin this Heads Up with a thank you. Thank you for the many lovely comments we have received regarding our face to face live sessions held last week. It really was delightful (and for some, emotional) to connect visually with each class community. Each member of staff who took part commented on how great it was to see our children and to listen to what they've been doing.

Thank you too, for supporting the sessions with your presence; adult supervision in these sessions is vital in order to safeguard our children and staff. We aim to continue to run these sessions and they will grow and develop over time. Please ensure that you change the name on zoom to show your child's forename; only then can we admit them.

As previously mentioned, class teachers have now started telephoning every family in order to have personal contact; remember the number may appear as withheld or no called ID. Going forward, we will continue to keep the communication going.

Over the last few days, there has been much media talk about the re-establishment of working patterns and a process of going back to school.

The well-being of our children, families and staff is at the centre of our thinking and we will do all we can to make the process of reintegration as positive as possible.

To help us gather as much information as possible on these matters, I have been in extensive dialogue with other headteachers around the country, national forums, my professional association's lead professionals and the senior directors in the local authority. In doing so, we can establish some of the key aspects of how we will bring our community back together.

Whenever and however we return, whether it is in June and whether it is in a phased way, we will work to keep our children safe. If you follow us on twitter, you may have seen the reference to 'How may we grow back?'

On this note, we are keen to gauge your thinking, so please look at our [survey monkey](#) in which we ask three simple questions:

1. What have you really missed about Mellor Primary School?
2. What are you looking forward to on returning?
3. If you could change anything about how or what children learn, what would it be?

These questions will help us as we move forward.

In the meantime, before we return, there is still much we can do to bring our community together:

- The #spreadtherainbow movement is bringing colour to communities and it would be wonderful if you could join in. Many of you have already created rainbows in your homes. Please share a rainbow in the garden, your window or at the end of your drive and join us on twitter @mellorprimary with your pictures. I trust that you will understand that we haven't asked for rainbow work and such like to be dropped off at school due to the necessary constraints imposed by social distancing.
- Through Purple Mash, we have set up blogs for each and every class. These blogs are for you to share some of the lovely projects your children have been working on. Our teachers will comment on what they see.
- We asked recently what are you doing for nature and what is nature doing for you? We have set up another blog on this title for our children to share their experience work and thoughts; it is called 'Wonderful World'. It would be fantastic to see painting, drawing, poetry and narrative. If you wish to upload external files such as word documents or videos onto Purple Mash this video will guide you through [how to do this](#)
- This weekend is the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Our [website](#) offers lots of ideas on ways to celebrate this. Again join us on twitter @mellorprimary with your pictures.
- Many parents have commented on how helpful the learning projects have been as they have had the same format and topics each week enabling siblings in multiple year groups to work on common themes. Remember if you, as parents haven't signed up for Purple Mash, please do so. If you require more formal based learning opportunities we have signposted the lessons from the Oak Academy – see the [school website](#)

On speaking to every family, there have been common discussions particularly around home learning, how difficult it can be, how frustrating at times and in some cases feelings of anxiety about how much you are able to do.

It is clear that every family is different in its dynamic and each of you has had to find a way forward that suits your own personal circumstances during these challenging times.

Teachers develop their craft by being immersed in the profession through professional development, dialogue, shared space and research; it is a skill grown over a significant period of time.

Relationships between teachers and children are very different to those of parents and children and we cannot underestimate the power of these relationships when it comes to creating the best climate for learning.

Working parents/carers, furloughed parents/carers, single parent families, families with multiple children, whatever you have been able to do during this time is enough.

Whatever your context, we are all part of the same community. We all need to recognise that with each family, there is a story and the first thing we need to do is to look after each other and spread a bit of kindness. Let us all know the little acts of kindness you or your loved ones have expressed and join us on twitter @mellorprimary with your pictures.

I will leave you with this final observation. Remy in Year 3 organised a quiz and asked me to answer some questions so he could ask the children about my responses. It made me smile and laugh when he messaged me to say it was awesome. Please share your little gem moments.

Keep safe and we'll see you as soon as possible.

Warmest regards,



J.E. Nicholson

