

Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has now been 9 weeks since we were instructed to close our doors to all but a few of our pupils. No-one could have ever imagined this happening and it certainly hasn't been an easy ride for anyone. During that time there will have been 'those moments' that you never thought you would get through. Those moments when you had nothing left to give and those moments when you thought 'I can't keep doing this' but you have, we have and we will continue to. You have protected, nurtured, supported and educated your children. You have played with them, laughed with them, hugged them and endlessly entertained them during a national period of uncertainty and fear. They got what they needed – they got you. Yes, you will have experienced emotions as a family that you never knew existed, never mind had ever experienced before but you rode the waves and at times (maybe) even 'stood up on that surfboard'. You have permission to feel drained and that you just need 5 minutes for yourself and guess what, you have permission to take it. In fact, treat yourself – take 10. We should all be proud of what we have achieved and even though the end is not yet in sight, your children will remember a time when the nation pulled together and they were safe at home and loved. Who can argue with that ?

Thank you to all the parents who have sent pictures this week and remember to keep sending in your pictures of what you do as a family so I can include them in my next letter. Any photographs can be sent to [office1@pyegreen.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office1@pyegreen.staffs.sch.uk) and will be forwarded to me.

This week our families have been spending quality time together playing board games, washing the car and making salt dough volcanoes.



Our pupils have been learning all about tornadoes and the Titanic.

### What is a Tornado?

A tornado is a rapidly rotating, violent column of air that is in contact with both the surface of the Earth and a big thunderstorm cloud!



They have been creating some amazing pieces of work.



## Families Health and Well Being Newsletter



I have been asked to inform you that there are two 0-19 hubs where families can call in for any advice or information on health and wellbeing open Monday –Friday from 9am-5pm.

Cannock districts can call 0300 303 3924.

### 'While We Can't Hug Story'

Hedgehog and Tortoise want to give each other a great big hug, but they're not allowed to touch.

From the creators of the internationally adored The Hug, Eoin McLaughlin and Polly Dunbar bring you a new story: While We Can't Hug. This can be accessed here <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=2PnnFrPaRgY>

### Therapeutic Support Adviser Video Number 5

The fifth video from Claire Wilson has now been uploaded to our website. It is based around the concept of 'uncertainty' - something all of us certainly feel at the minute.

You can access this by following the link <https://www.pyegreen.staffs.sch.uk/more/chew-initiatives> or <https://chew.mykaiabi.com/messages-pga-5>

If you have any feedback regarding these videos or any suggestions for future videos please email [office1@pyegreen.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office1@pyegreen.staffs.sch.uk)

### Return to School for Some Year Groups



As you will be aware, on 28/5/2020 the Government will be making their final decision whether more children will return to school from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. Those parents in eligible year groups (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6) will have already been contacted by school and have received detailed plans for the return to school.

During half term, staff will be in school adding 2m taping, signage and other safety measures. This is a scary time for everyone but I can assure you that whilst planning the return, **safety** has been the primary focus all along. Some of our 'rules' may seem very restrictive but they are essential to keep the Pye Green Community safe and we ask for all parents to support us with these measures.

We will be emailing a 'Home School Agreement' to those families who will be joining us from 1<sup>st</sup> June and we would appreciate it if you could read and agree to this agreement by emailing [office1@pyegreen.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office1@pyegreen.staffs.sch.uk) before your child joins us.

We now know which children will be returning and staff have their names on lists. Any families, from the eligible year groups, who decide after June 1<sup>st</sup> they also want to return *will only be permitted to do so from*

*the following Monday.* Staffing has had to be meticulously planned and it isn't easy just to simply add more children in as there are many factors that need to be considered.

I would also just like to remind people of current Government guidance with regarding social distancing :-

- You should stay alert when you leave home: washing your hands regularly, maintaining social distancing, and ensuring **you do not gather in groups of more than two**, except with members of your household or for other specific exceptions set out in law.
- It is still **not permitted** to leave your house to visit friends and family in their home. The government is looking at how to facilitate greater contact with close family or friends, and will explain how this can be done safely in the coming weeks.

Please support us with this. By not abiding by these rules you are putting lives in our community at risk. For those families accessing us it is essential that these guidelines are followed. Failure to do so may result in your child being unable to join us in school.

### **Young Voices**

Don't forget that on June 2nd, the organisers of Young Voices, which some of you may have been to, are hosting a 'Big Sing'. If your child (or you) are interested in taking part, please visit [www.youngvoices.co.uk/powerinme](http://www.youngvoices.co.uk/powerinme)

### **Free School Meals**

I am aware that over the past few weeks, the circumstances of our families may have changed. You might now be eligible for 'Free School Meals' or Pupil Premium Funding even if you haven't been before. To qualify you must be receiving the benefits listed on previous letters but you can still apply by following this link <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals/staffordshire>

### **And Finally....**

I wanted to finish with something that arrived and made me incredible happy this week.



To receive this from on 'Thank a Teacher Day' from Mum Liz, Maisie & Orla (who is very excited to be starting in Sept) was wonderful. Thank you ☺

Have a relaxing weekend, take care and stay safe.

Best wishes,

*Sarah Yates*

Acting Headteacher