



# SMART MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST FAMILY NEWSLETTER

EDITION 3 | 23 APRIL 2020

## LETTER TO PARENTS

We hope that this newsletter helps you keep in touch with your child's school and feel connected. Can I say a thank you for all of the hugely positive and supportive messages from parents of Smart schools. At the moment the advice from Government is that schools should remain closed to all pupils except for childcare. We are already planning for when children can get back into school but only when it is safe for them and our staff to do so. We will keep you well informed.

Please see below for a word from the Vice Chair of Trustees of the Smart schools.

**C. A. Loffhouse**  
CEO Smart MAT



## ASK A HEADTEACHER

with Emma Elliott  
Acting HT at North Fawdon

**If you had to eat the same dessert every day, what would it be?** Sticky toffee pudding with custard!  
**Who could ever get bored of that?**

**What is something you have stopped doing because of the coronavirus?** I have stopped going to public places with my little boys at the weekend, it's been hard as they love running around.

**And something you have started doing?** We have been spending time in our garden and have put up some basketball hoops which will be well used!

**Which person from history do you most admire?**  
I really admire of the work of Ada Lovelace as she was considered the first computer programmer in an industry that has transformed business and our lives in the world. In an industry that is still very much dominated by men, it's particularly striking that the first programmer was a woman.

**What advice do you have for when I feel scared?**  
It's important to talk and share your worries with someone else, this always helps. If you feel there is no one you can talk to, there are always people on the end of the phone like Childline (0800 1111) for children, or Samaritans (116 123) for adults.

### The Show Must Go On

On behalf of the Smart Board of Trustees, I hope you, your family, friends are safe and able to enjoy the extended Easter weekend, despite the current restrictions on normal life. COVID-19 is changing everything about life and work as we know it. We're all focussed on how to best protect and support our families, employees and communities in the face of this unfolding crisis. I want to let you know that our thoughts are with those affected.

With regards to our Trust position, we remain committed to following the latest government advice. Fundamentally, our mission is to serve communities and we recognise that this is required, now more than ever. Some of our schools have remained open to provide support for families of key workers and those identified as most vulnerable. In addition we thank you for your support in continuing with your children's learning at home during this difficult time.

We will continue to communicate with families across our schools. Staff have been assigned to keeping in touch with you and they will update websites and social media regularly.



Lastly I would like to thank you for your continued support for our Smart schools. It means so much to all of our staff, to know we are able to work closely together for the good of our children at this difficult time.

**Alan Keenleyside**  
Vice Chair, Smart Board of Trustees



### Did you know...

If you're not feeling safe at home, or need some help with coping, you should speak with a staff person at the school. Also try visiting: [bit.ly/feelingunsafe](https://bit.ly/feelingunsafe)

# WHAT'S GOING ON IN SCHOOL ANYWAY?



Normally our schools are buzzing with pupils! Things are looking a lot different these days. Some students are still coming to school to keep our community safe, but we can't wait for all of our students and staff to join together again! Your teacher and Headteacher are certainly thinking of you! Here are a few snapshots of what our schools have been up to this week.

## Vouchers for Free School Meals

When you are not able to come to school, it is important that you still eat lots of good food to keep you healthy and help you grow. Each of our schools is now issuing eVouchers in place of Free School Meals, the meals at school/packed lunches that you collect. Those eVouchers can be used in most of the big supermarkets – you have to choose which supermarket you would like, so hopefully you will be able to choose your favourite. The vouchers are for £15 per week, per child.

Please make sure that parents check their text and e-mail messages to get your eVouchers. There is also information on what they need to do on your school website and facebook, too.

If you use the money to help your parents cook a delicious meal, why not snap a photo, and ask a parent to post it to your school's facebook page! Your teacher would LOVE to see you trying a new skill!



*Read the Lucy Short poem on the right side of the page. Notice how her feelings and moods change – can you tell us which emotions she might be feeling in each part?. When you are feeling worried, try reading a worry book from this book list: [bit.ly/worryreading](http://bit.ly/worryreading)*

## TESCO Gives

The grocery retailer Tesco was kind enough to offer our students in school an Easter egg and a bowl of fresh fruit over the Easter break! Many thanks to Karen, who's own children attended Kingston Park Primary school when they were young. We love our Smart alumni and feel so grateful that Tesco pitched in during our time of need. In continuing generosity, next week Tesco will be treating our teachers who are working in the hub schools to a freshly restocked tea & coffee service for our hardworking staff!

## People Helping People

Mountfield Primary's Caretaker Jeff Whaley knew that Wyndham was in trouble – there was no caretaker to cut the long grass! He volunteered to help Wyndham get cleaned up, and even brought his own lawnmower from home, as the school's lawnmower was out of petrol. Jeff, we appreciate our Smart staff that treat all our schools like their own, thank you!

## The Steph Show

We have received messages of praise and thanks from many quarters, including Steph McGovern! Steph has a new daily show airing from her living room. Because everyone is staying at home, the stars of the show speak with Steph using video calls from their own houses. You will want to tune in this week and next week on Channel 4 at 12pm as you might see some familiar faces!

To watch, visit: [bit.ly/stephshow](http://bit.ly/stephshow)

**From all of our schools,  
Take care and stay safe!**

## I'm Supposed to be at School Today

A poem by Lucy Short

I'm supposed to be at school today  
But mum says I can't go  
'It's our turn on the bikes' I said  
But she hugged me and said 'No'

I get to play at home today  
And sit and watch TV  
Dad's been on his phone all day  
But it doesn't bother me

Mum made us ring Gran today  
And I said that I had grown  
I told them both my favourite joke  
And Gran laughed loud down the phone

No-one's playing on my street today  
And I'm getting bored of TV  
I got a bit upset and sad  
Then mum sat me on her knee

She said  
'It all feels a little strange today  
Not just for you, but for me  
It won't be like this forever, my love  
Just you wait and see

Dad came off his computer today  
And helped me read my book  
Both our tummies started rumbling  
So then he taught me how to cook

I played out in the yard today  
And found some bugs within the grass  
My neighbour saw me through her window  
And waved at me through the glass

Guess what? I went back to school today  
And all my friends came back too  
My classroom looked exactly the same  
And my teacher said 'I missed you'

Gran came round for tea today  
And said something to me  
"You must remember this time, my dear  
'Cause they'll teach this in History"

*courtesy of selfa.org.uk*