



SMART MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Week 2 | 1 APRIL 2020

LETTER TO PARENTS FROM COLIN LOFTHOUSE, SMART CEO

We are in week two of the school closures to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Our schools have been open for childcare of those who must continue to work. Thank you for your ongoing perseverance at this time. I can assure you the headteachers and staff in your school are all continuing to work hard and we are all missing you!

Easter Holiday and Summer Term Provision

Unfortunately we are not expecting the current emergency situation to end soon and schools will remain closed after the Easter holiday into the summer term. We will continue to provide child care over this time.

We also have a duty of care to keep our staff healthy and as much as possible away from their workplaces just like everyone else. We will do this by keeping 4 schools open across the trust and closing 4 schools completely to children.

Parents should not be concerned about this – the numbers of children are very small so group sizes will remain small so we can observe the guidance for distancing in school. We will also ensure that staff from your child's school will always be with them in the host school and all the usual safeguarding and health and safety rules will apply as normal.

All children will attend the same hub school providing each other with friendship and support. School meals will be provided. It will be a parent's responsibility to transport your child/ren to the hub school. However if there are parents with particular transport difficulties please contact your child's school and we will see if we can help.

School closing		Receiving hub school
Stocksfield Avenue Primary	→	Wyndham Primary NE3 4SB
Mounfield Primary	→	North Fawdon Primary NE3 2SL
Farne Primary	→	Cheviot Primary NE5 4EB
Kenton Bar Primary	→	Cheviot Primary NE3 3YF
Kingston Park Primary		will remain open for its own pupil care

Details for parents on the schools that are closing (Mounfield, Farne and Kenton Bar) will be provided by your Headteacher. Stocksfield Avenue closed last Friday as a trial and I am pleased to say all of the children have enjoyed their time in Wyndham School this week.

C. A. Lofthouse



ASK A HEADTEACHER

with Sarah Hayes
Headteacher at Stocksfield Ave

If you had to eat the same dessert every day, what would it be?

Hot bakewell tart with lashings of cream!

What is something you have stopped doing because of the coronavirus?

I have stopped wasting toilet paper to blow my nose.

And something you have started doing?

I have started washing everything in sight including my dog.

Which person from history do you most admire?

I admire Elizabeth 1 as she was one of the greatest female leaders and was well known for her intelligence, cunning and her hot temper!

What advice do you have for when I feel scared?

Think about things that make you happy like walking a dog or playing with your friends.



Did you know...

If you've had a change in circumstances, you may be eligible for your child/ren to get free school meals. To check your eligibility and apply, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

WHAT'S GOING ON IN SCHOOL ANYWAY?



Normally our schools are buzzing with over 450 pupils! Things are looking a lot different these days. Some pupils are still coming to school in order to keep our community safe. Our schools are still here, and can't wait for all of our students and staff to join together again! Your teacher and your Headteacher are certainly thinking of you! In the meantime, here are a few snapshots of what some of our schools have been up to this week.

Mountfield Primary

I hope you have been enjoying the break from school but don't forget the homework to keep your brain working! There are plenty of activities in them and some can be completed more than once. The most important thing to be doing is read - I have just finished a book and can't wait to start another. It opens up lots of imaginary worlds. Give it a try and get lost in a book!

Mountfield has been very quiet over the past 2 weeks and feels strange without you all. We miss the usual constant chatter and sounds of laughter as you have fun. Whenever I am sad I like to watch something funny on the telly and have a laugh, it makes me feel much better. If you feel sad, just think of something silly I have done in assembly!

We don't know when we will be back at school so please be good, do what your parents ask and don't forget to relax and enjoy yourself.



What magic have you found in a book? A character, a setting, a plot, the illustrations? Maybe try to draw a story map of your favourite book or a book you are reading at the moment. Practice the story map with key actions and retell it to all of your friends.

Cheviot & Farne

There is a lovely sense of community at the moment, with many rainbow posters on our estate and the number growing daily. Our NHS (National Health Service) is the service that helps us when we are poorly, and to stay fit and healthy. We have had our school nurse into school to talk to us about looking after our teeth, growing up and how to look after ourselves. Last week, our whole country clapped and cheered in support of NHS workers and I hope you did too. My dog Ruby barked as I clapped. Our thoughts are with people in our country and around the world who are poorly at this time.

At school, we still have some children who need to come in every day and they have been enjoying some activities as part of their learning too. Like you, we have been taking part in our exercise every day. We have also been enjoying stories in the fresh air and I hope you are all keeping your reading up to date.

Your teachers are busy working at home planning lots of exciting things for when we return to school. Until then, keep checking our school website and your Class Blog for updates. If you have any pictures you want to share – email admin@farne.newcastle.sch.uk and we can post them for everyone. In the meantime, be kind to each other, remember our school values and make a positive difference each and every day to people in your family.



Kenton Bar Primary

Just like you, we are missing being in school and seeing your smiling faces but we're trying to make the most of our new daily routines. The weather has been kind to us during this tricky time so do get some fresh air every day and exercise. We have all been doing P.E. with Joe Wicks, even though our muscles are aching! Just think how fit and healthy we will all be when we come back to school.

It's lovely to see you keeping in touch on Facebook and letting us know what you've been up to, like applauding on doorsteps to show appreciation to our NHS and Key Worker heroes. I'm sure you'd agree it was an emotional and humbling experience. We also loved your messages of hope and kindness through your Rainbow Art. Keep posting your creations as it reminds us to stay safe at home.

Our Nursery & Reception staff have been enjoying your updates on your fantastic activities like Tapestry. Your teachers will continue to send ideas for weekly activities - some of you may complete all activities and some won't. Don't worry, you won't fall behind. Activities can be found on our website in the 'Home Learning' section. There are many more skills you could be learning, which are just as important, such as: building lego, cooking, helping around the house, and tidying your bedroom. Your teachers will be checking the online learning resources every day to see who is requiring support. I hear some Times Tables Rockstars battles have also been set up. I wonder who will win?

Please keep checking our website and Facebook posts for updates.

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