



# SMART MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Week 1 | 27 MARCH 2020

## LETTER TO PARENTS FROM COLIN LOFTHOUSE, CEO

Everyone at Smart Multi-Academy Trust and in your child's school wishes you well and hope that you are coping with this highly unusual time. Please accept my thanks on behalf of all of the Smart Headteachers and staff for helping us cope by having your children at home. Can I say thank you for the lovely messages of support you have been sending to schools. The staff working in school really do appreciate your thoughts.

Hopefully you will have been able to support your child with learning at home. We have deliberately not given out lots of worksheets with complicated learning. We understand that **the most important thing at the moment is that children feel safe and loved**. We would like them to keep reading as much as they can and do some of the tasks suggested by their teacher. Also try to keep fit and active, as you will see, lots of the teachers and support staff are doing home PE classes as well!

We also want to share a word of warning about keeping a close eye on what your child may be doing online if they have access to the internet. There are unfortunately increased risks for grooming and inappropriate content if your child is spending more time online. The police have said they have seen a spike in online criminal behaviour during this crisis. Keep your eyes and ears open please and keep your child safe.

The government has asked schools to provide childcare during the Easter Holidays especially for key worker families because they have had their leave cancelled or have other exceptional child care problems. Your Headteacher will be asking who requires care over Easter, so we can plan accordingly.

After Easter, Smart schools will continue to provide child care for key worker and vulnerable children. However, 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 move to a hub school model with some schools shutting altogether, some information can be found in my Letter to Parents you will have been given by your Headteacher and more details will also follow in our next newsletter.

Please remember to respect the government guidance about being out and about and we wish you a safe weekend.

C. A. Lofthouse



## ASK A HEADTEACHER

with Gill Halliford  
Head of School at Cheviot Primary

**If you had to eat the same dessert every day, what would it be?** Sticky toffee pudding - mmmmmmm.

**What is something you have stopped doing because of the coronavirus?** Getting my nails done in a fab little salon.

**And something you have started doing?** Staying off social media and talking to my family more.

**Which person from history do you most admire?** I love Jane Austen because her writing is funny and clever and has stood the test of time, however, I think I most admire Rosa Parks. It must have taken great courage to say 'NO' that day.

**What advice do you have for when I feel scared?** As someone who doesn't feel all that brave at times, I would say - think of something that makes you feel good and hold onto that feeling. I always think about my son. If I can, I watch a video of him on my phone to make me feel less scared. It's just a clip of him singing and dancing like a loon when he was 3, but it always makes me smile and the world is a better place.



### Did you know...

Due to popular request, we are switching to a voucher programme for families that qualify for Free School Meals. More information coming soon!

# 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.

## North Fawdon

Although we are not in school at the moment, please keep in touch with us via our Facebook and school blogs.

On Facebook, parents have been sharing some great suggestions of activities that they are doing with their children at home. The staff have loved seeing some of your pictures (remember for safety don't share pictures with your children's faces!)

Do check the class blogs out, as the teachers are busy uploading challenges onto them regularly. They have some really good ideas on them and this is a great way for our children to still have some contact with their class teacher by making a comment. To comment, you will just need your email address. We understand in these circumstances it can be very easy to feel alone so please keep in contact.



*Here is a challenge for you. Look outside your window for at least 15 minutes and record how many different birds you can see. You could make a tally chart of the different birds you saw or draw them. Perhaps look on google to find out which birds they were.*

## Wyndham Primary

We hope you've managed to enjoy some of the sunshine whilst doing your daily exercise - your teachers and support staff certainly have been. Mrs. Cleary has been out walking Digga but he's getting a bit hot now as he needs his hair cut! I'm sure lots of you have been giving the Joe Wicks workouts a go in the mornings, there's a link on our Facebook page if you haven't tried them yet. Lots of your teachers and support staff are also doing them at home with their children, too.

Just like you, we're all finding things a little bit odd this week and school is certainly different and unusual without you. Some of us are trying to take the opportunity to learn new skills, Mrs. Gathercole's daughter is teaching her all about Phonics!

## Stocksfield Avenue

We hope you are enjoying the activities in your home learning packs. We will upload a new grid each week onto the Pupil Home Learning section of our school website.

Our family support workers Sam Dixon (07970740991) and Laura Hopper (07432475373) are available at the end of a phone if you have a concern or simply need some advice. They work part-time across a few schools but will try to get back to you asap.

Don't forget to check our website for any updates in the Coronavirus section and follow us on Twitter or Facebook. School has been a very strange and quiet place this week without you all.

## Kingston Park

It's so lovely to be able to connect with you all through our first Smart newsletter. I hope you and your families are all keeping well and making the most of the time that you are able to go outside and exercise. I also do hope that you managed to stand outside and join in the round of applause to show your appreciation for all the people who work for the Health Service and who are working hard to make sure that they can help all the people who are feeling poorly at the moment.

Like you, we have been doing our exercise and have been joining in with Joe Wicks' workout routine in the mornings. Quite a few of the teachers and support staff are complaining of how much they are aching from the exercise! Hopefully, we should end up being very fit very soon.

Hopefully you are managing to read whilst you are at home - my recommended read for Mums, Dads, Grandmas, Grandads, any other members of your families, and of course - you! - is:

"The Boy, The Fox, The Mole and The Horse" by Charlie Mackesy. It's a great read for everyone young and old and a book you'll keep coming back to.

I am going to post on the School Facebook page, so please tell your friends and families who know Kingston Park to have a look and see what our news is on there, too. That way we can keep our whole school connected until we reunite once again.



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