



# SMART MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST FAMILY NEWSLETTER

EDITION 5 | 22 MAY 2020

## LETTER TO PARENTS FROM CEO

The Prime Minister has requested schools to reopen to select year groups, and we have begun the complex task of getting school ready and safe for all. We are organising additional cleaning, buying more cleaning materials, planning smaller groups, and deciding who will teach, all whilst managing breaks, toilet facilities and lunchtimes as carefully as possible. Even the government guidance agrees that social distancing will not be possible in school, so let me be clear – we cannot guarantee your child will be safe from infection in school – but we will do our utmost to keep everyone safe, by doing everything we can to minimise risks.

Thanks to our parents who completed the online survey as this has been very helpful to inform our plans. Together with all Newcastle schools, we have decided to admit the oldest children first, as they are more mature and able to follow instructions. This will make our procedures even better before we invite the younger children in.

From **1 June**, our schools will reopen (or stay open) only to children of key workers and vulnerable families. We will use this week to do cautious and extensive preparation, in order to invite the return of Year 6 from **8 June** - at the earliest – as we need extra time to train staff and get ready for this new way of working. If successful, we plan to invite Year 1 as soon as we can after that.

Early Years will be the last to return. Our experts are assessing if it is safe and kind for our 3 and 4 year old children to return to school. Following government guidance, it is likely that many of these children would not be in their usual classroom, not have their usual teacher, and not access their usual toilets, play equipment, resources or outside space, as everything needs to be cleaned throughout the day. My experience tells me these children would find this very strange indeed, and it may cause anxiety and upset. We will work to overcome these problems before the end of summer term, but this may be unlikely.

I hope you agree with us that a cautious approach to get things right is a good way forward. We are desperate to get the children back to school as quickly as possible, but we have been through an unprecedented experience and do not want to make the situation worse for anyone - children, families or staff.

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

## ASK A HEADTEACHER

with Lee Gallon  
EHT at Cheviot & Farne



**If you had to eat the same dessert every day, what would it be?** Rhubarb crumble, but not with custard, with vanilla ice cream - hmmm! It reminds me of my childhood, my great aunt made it for me and my two sisters when we stayed during the summer holidays.

**What is something you have stopped doing because of the coronavirus?** Going to the gym.

**And something you have started doing?** Enjoying the outdoors and doing plenty more exercise outdoors.

**Which person from history do you most admire?** Sir Winston Churchill. I admire his courage to stand up for what was right during World War Two. I admire his determination to succeed and his belief that doing the right thing is always best. An amazing Churchill fact - he also won the Nobel Peace prize in 1953.

**What advice do you have for when I feel scared?** Write your worries down on paper. Place them in a box (or somewhere safe) and share them with someone you trust - a worry shared is a worry halved as they say and someone can always help no matter how big or how small a problem can be.



### Did you know...

Wednesday was Thank A Teacher Day! We can always show we care, even when apart. Leave a post on the school facebook or write it outside in chalk!

# 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 bits and bobs that our amazing school staff want to share with you!

## A Difficult Day

Submitted by Elaine Pattison  
HT, Kenton Bar



"Today was a Difficult Day," said Pooh.

There was a pause.

"Do you want to talk about it?" asked Piglet.

"No," said Pooh after a bit. "No, I don't think I do."

"That's okay," said Piglet, and he came and sat beside his friend.

"What are you doing?" asked Pooh.

"Nothing, really," said Piglet. "Only, I know what Difficult Days are like. I quite often don't feel like talking about it on my Difficult Days either."

"But goodness," continued Piglet, "Difficult Days are so much easier when you know you've got someone there for you. And I'll always be here for you, Pooh."

And as Pooh sat there, working through in his head his Difficult Day, while the solid, reliable Piglet sat next to him quietly, swinging his little legs...he thought that his best friend had never been more right."



Lots of people are being creative with their friends and filming lip-sync music videos. For inspiration, check out Mountfield's rendition of "We are Family." If you're careful, you'll catch Mr. Godfrey riding an actual unicycle!

First, visit

<https://bit.ly/mfpsfamily>

then film your own version!

## Artists at Kingston Park

Our students at Kingston Park sent lots of beautiful rainbow drawings to the key workers at Tesco who are stocking the shelves with vital things for us to eat. Tesco was thrilled to receive our well wishes and hung the drawings up for all to see.

*"Thank you to Kingston Park for the fabulous pictures that the lovely Mrs. Glenton dropped off. Funny after all these years, after my own children aged 25 and 20 who went to Kingston Park - I still call her Mrs. Glenton. It still seems right and appropriate. The pictures are fabulous and will cheer everyone up, I am certain of that. Off to put them in the store window."*

- Karen, Tesco Supermarkets



## Northern Celebration of Education

Our CEO, Colin Lofthouse, was invited to give the keynote speech at School Northeast's "The Northern Celebration of Education 2020" conference. Hundreds of teachers and leaders logged in to hear what he had to say, which included lovely things about your school and your teachers!

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

## International Week

Submitted by Mrs. McFall  
Teacher & EAL Lead, Wyndham

Each year, at Wyndham, we look forward to celebrating 'International Week' with our whole school community.

We enjoy sharing our different cultures in many ways, such as cooking and tasting food, making jewellery, learning dances, songs and last year African drumming! We always have lots of volunteers, parents and friends, who like to share aspects of their culture with us.

This year was no different, we were not to be deterred!

We posted ideas including how to make a 'Fact File' about a favourite country, on our website, and the children rose to the challenge. As the week went on, we were amazed at the learning that took place and looked forward to the pictures that were posted each day! Well done Wyndham, we are a fabulous community!

Please visit our Facebook Page to see our wonderful work!

## Transition to Secondary

Some of our amazing Year 6 students will be attending nearby Kenton School next year. Kenton School is excited to meet you and is welcoming you with open arms. They've even produced a few videos to help ease transition, virtually. Meet your new art teacher Mr. Bainbridge, and play "guess the artist" at the end of this video!

Visit <https://bit.ly/kentonart>