



4th April 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all continuing to adjust to our new way of life. Apologies for the overload of information in this letter, there is lots! Each time I write a letter I am hopeful that the next one will not need to be as long...

The Easter Holiday

This is not going to be the holiday any of us had planned for, but it is the holiday now. I know that some of you will want to keep doing bits of work so that you maintain a routine and sense of business. However, there is no expectation from us that this is what you will be doing. We are expecting you to put your workbooks away and spend this time doing fun things. Twinkl have lots of fun Easter activities you can print off to keep busy and hopefully the sun will shine so we can all be outside in our gardens.

I have also told teaching staff not to work during the holiday except for the days when they are in school looking after the children of key workers so if you need to contact school please contact me via email (headteacher@marstonmontgomery.derbyshire.sch.uk). I will check my emails regularly over the holiday.

Contacting Parents

This week I have contacted the majority of our Long Lane families. If you are one of the families I managed to contact it was lovely to talk to you all and find out how you are getting on and what you have been up to over the last few weeks. I will be contacting Marston families the week after next when I am in school. I am looking forward to chatting to you and finding out how you are.

Please remember you can email both myself and teaching staff (during term time) if you have any queries, questions or worries. We understand that this is a difficult time for everyone and we are still here to support you all, even if it is remotely.

Home Learning after Easter

After Easter we will continue to provide suggestions for home learning but in a different format. Staff will be sending out a document with suggestions for the week on. You will get this on a Monday morning by 9:30am. Throughout the week please contact staff if you have any questions about the work. Teaching staff will check their emails daily, the only time they may be unable to do this is the days they are in school but generally you should get a response within 24 hours over a working day.

Please only complete 1 or 2 pages of your work books a day, these need to last while we are off for this unknown length of time. If you need more work please visit the 'Remote Learning' page on Long Lane's website to find additional resources. Please see below for more information on this.

Pages on the Website

We have developed different pages on the school websites for use during this time.

Remote Learning – Website Resources

<https://www.longlane.derbyshire.sch.uk/remote-learning-website-resources/>



This page has links to a variety of useful websites. There is something for everyone – books to read, museum tours, earn a Blue Peter badge and lots more! If you find something that you think is worth sharing please email the information to Mrs Murby (kmurby@longlane.derbyshire.sch.uk) and she will add it to the page.

Remote Learning – What have you been doing?

Both websites have examples of work and fun that you are having at home. Please follow these links to see what your friends have been doing.

LLPS: <https://www.longlane.derbyshire.sch.uk/remote-learning/>

MMPS:

http://www.marstonmontgomery.derbyshire.sch.uk/website/what_have_you_been_up_to/465123

If you have work or photos you would like to share on the website please email these (saying that they are for the website) to, -

LLPS: kmurby@longlane.derbyshire.sch.uk

MMPS: headteacher@marstonmontgomery.derbyshire.sch.uk

Facebook Page

The parents at LLPS have created a closed group on Facebook for parents to help you stay in touch. The link for this can be found at the top of this page -

<https://www.longlane.derbyshire.sch.uk/remote-learning/>

Staffing Changes: MMPS

Mrs Alexandra has decided to have a change of career and will be leaving us to take up an administrative role on Monday 20th April. Mrs Thomas will now be the full time class teacher for the Meadow Class. After the Easter holiday Mrs Thomas will continue Mrs Alexandra's work of emailing the home learning for the week and responding to your queries about the work. I would like to wish Mrs Alexandra luck in her new role.

Staffing Changes: LLPS

Mrs Reeve has also decided to take a break from teaching and will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. Due to the current situation we are unable to carry out the interview process in the way we would like to so have asked Mrs Sharpe to become the Garden Class teacher for at least the autumn term 2020 (September 2020 to December 2020). Once we know when we are returning to school the governors will advertise the post. We will update you when we are able to as this situation progresses.

Whitemoor Lakes

Unfortunately, due to the current situation our residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes in June 2020 has been postponed until June 2021. I know that our year six pupils will feel sad about this as they will have been looking forward to sharing this time with their friends and will now be unable to go next year. I know some parents have paid for this in advance or have paid at least part of it. We will be contacting you all in the weeks after Easter to find out what you would like to do about this payment. Our current Year 2 pupils will also receive a letter inviting them to participate in this experience too.

Online Safety Guide for Parents

As everybody knows, we are in unprecedented times. With many confined to their homes for long periods, the demand for internet services is rising rapidly. For many, these services are a lifeline, but this is probably a good time to remind ourselves of a few key points to keep safe online:



- **Talking with children about their use of technology.** It's a good time to have that conversation about what your children are doing online. Be as open as you can, keep the lines of conversation open and take a genuine interest in what they're doing. Some of you may be able to encourage them to show you and teach you how to use that game or whatever else they're doing.
- **Embrace the positives.** There is a wealth of content out there to help our children. Even more so at the moment as many services that have been available at a cost are being given away free for limited periods. Social media can be an invaluable tool for communicating with friends and relatives who are socially isolating and can be used to maintain contacts whilst observing social distancing rules.
- **Be mindful of online contacts.** Whilst social media can be a fabulous way of keeping in touch with others – not always a bad thing depending on the age of the user – please remind your children about the dangers of communicating with people they do not know in the real world. Check that they have the appropriate privacy settings in place on any sites/apps they are using.
- **Think before you share.** An old mantra, but an important one. If you wouldn't print information on a t-shirt and walk through the centre of town with it on, is it suitable to share online? When people are bored, they often lower their guard and share more personal information than they normally would. Remind your children of information they should / shouldn't share.
- **Consider setting boundaries.** With young people being at home for long periods, it's very tempting for them to spend extended periods using technology. Consider setting limits or establish guidelines for the use of technology and get agreement from all of the family. This could include limiting the use of technology to certain times of day or setting time limits. Remember that time out of the house, within Government guidelines, is also vital to everyone's mental and physical health.

If you need to contact someone regarding a safeguarding or any other concern during this time please email headteacher@marstonmontgomery.derbyshire.sch.uk

There are so many things around about these unprecedented times. The poem on the next page is my favourite, I think it captures the sadness and hope that we all have during this difficult time.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Easter
Look after our rainbow children
Stay safe and take care

Teresa Bosley
Head Teacher



The Rainbow Children



The history books will talk of now,
That time the world stood still,
When every family stayed at home,
Waved from windowsills –
At those they loved but could not hold,
Because they loved them so.
Yet, while they did they noticed all the flowers start to grow.

The sun came out, they can recall,
And windows, rainbows filled.
They kicked a football in their yards,
Until the night drew in.
They walked each day but not too close,
That time the world stood still.
When people walked straight down the roads,
That once the cars did fill.

They saw that people became ill,
They knew the world was scared.
But whilst the world stood still they saw,
How much the whole world cared.
They clapped on Thursdays from their doors,
They cheered for the brave.
For people who would risk their lives,
So others could be saved.

The schools closed down, they missed their friends,
They missed their teachers so.
Their Mums and Dads helped with their work,
They helped their minds to grow.
The parents used to worry that,
As schools were put on hold,
Their children wouldn't have the tools,
They'd need as they grew old.

But history books talk of them,
Now adults fully grown.
Those little boys and girls back then,
The ones who stayed at home.
They'll tell you that they fixed this world,
Of all they would fulfil.
The **RAINBOW** children building dreams,
They'd dreamed whilst time stood still.