

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

I don't think any of us ever expected we would find ourselves in the position we have this week and to be writing my last newsletter for the forseeable future seems both surreal and saddening but I, like everyone else, understand the reasons for it.

At Maple Tree we consistently, and passionately, talk to the children about Values and these are so important to us on a day to day basis but never more so than at this point in time. You only have to look at the top of this newsletter to see what we try to instill to all at school but I would add 'pride' to the list. I am immensely proud of the staff who, this week, have had to dig really deep in a very unsettled and changing world. The fact that we managed to offer schooling until today is down to the dogged determination of the adults around. They have been quick to put the needs of others above their own in order to protect the children but we now need to ensure that the safety of staff is thought of in equal terms to others and by curbing the numbers of children we have in school and being able to consider social distance, it will help to keep them well and healthy too.

I am also immensely proud of the children who, again, through uncertain times, have taken the changes to their timetables with maturity and confidence. We understand that it is upsetting for some that they will not be with their friends for a while but we know that they will face each challenge with resilience and courage.

I am very grateful to all of you for your support as well. We have had many positive comments and we have welcomed each and every one. We understand that by closing this will put massive strain on your own lives and we will do what we can to support you with the home learning aspect of that.

We have uploaded some work onto the school website but I am sure you will appreciate that dealing with requests to do with that this week have not been a priority. This will change from next week and you can expect to see work and activities added to the <u>Home Learning</u> page regularly. Should you need any support or advice regarding the work set for your children please do contact us. We will be sending a separate letter out about this to all parents by the middle of next week.

So to clarify, school will be closed, indefinitely, from 3.30pm today except for providing a reduced provision for vulnerable children and the children of key workers. Offers will have been made to these families in advance so it is expected that only these children will attend school from next week. Should you feel that you meet the critical key workers category then you should check with your employer and then contact the school at <u>info@mapletreeprimaryschool.com</u>

I will keep updating you over the coming weeks and would love to hear how you are all getting on. You may not be with us on a daily basis but we care very much for all our families at Maple Tree and will miss seeing the children daily.

In the meantime I wish you all good health and very much hope that we see you soon.