

Friday 19th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Ecclesall Primary School,

I hope you and all your family are well. My staff and I are thinking about you all and missing all those children who continue to be home schooled.

Thank you to all those who have taken the time to send emails with positive comments, thanking my staff and I. We really do appreciate it. It did make me smile when parents said they have watched my latest HT video with Harold the dog when their children were fast asleep on Wednesday night or suggesting I read "War and Peace" next time so they got more than "Five Minutes Peace"! Some of you have told me that your children have watched it a few times now. I will be reading another book that is more suitable for the older children and will send this video hopefully over the weekend. The younger children are welcome to listen to it and parents and carers if they so wish!!

HT story reading with Harold the dog link if you haven't already seen it:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MrNGvxq17ImEoLxsVN4vUQrEq49juvRJ/view>

### Wider opening

From Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, we will have 20 bubbles in total with 17 of those bubbles being used by key worker children/vulnerable children across all year groups from Reception to Y6. Most of these 17 bubbles are now full and unless any places already allocated are no longer needed due to a change in circumstances, we will not be able to offer any more key worker places in school until we break up on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July.

As part of the wider opening, we have managed to create 3 more part time bubbles for our Y6 children with the last few part time staff left. This starts next week. Unfortunately, this therefore means that we will not be able to open more widely to Reception or Y1. 235 children have now been allocated a place but that does mean that 365 children continue to be home schooled. We have followed the guidance from the Government and Sheffield City Council and every decision has been based on the need to include as many children as we can following the health and safety guidance relating to social distancing and bubbles. Safety comes first.

We understand that it is becoming increasingly difficult for a large amount of our Ecclesall families that are continuing to home school their children. The Government continue to prioritise key worker children and vulnerable children above all others. Our school, unlike many Sheffield schools, has a very high number of key worker children; many families have both parents as key workers too. When lockdown began on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, schools were informed that only one parent had to be a key worker to ask for a place at school during this Covid-19 pandemic. However, we know there are many parents with one key worker in their family where they have managed to keep their children at home as they understand how these places are limited. Thank you for this. We have had to trust our parents when they request a key worker place. If you

have a key worker place in school, please continue to only come on the days that you need the place i.e. when you are working. This helps to keep our numbers down in our bubbles now that they are mainly full.

### Bubbles/ Keeping in touch

Some parents have asked how we have organised our bubbles at Ecclesall Primary School. We have 2 adults in each bubble, one is a teacher and one is an additional adult such as a Level 2 TA, Level 3 TA, supply TAs, other supply staff, teachers. All bubbles stay together all day long so for staff well-being and to ensure they have adequate breaks throughout the day and half of lunchtime, we have 2 adults in each bubble. With 20 classrooms and 40 staff being used now, there is no spare capacity. Two adults ensure that bubbles are safe and without them, I do not know how we could ensure the bubble does not “burst” by using other staff already in bubbles. We also think it is extremely important that staff are able to contact all our children (and parents/carers) who are not in school; with two adults in the bubble, the teacher can leave this bubble for a short period of time, for this to happen. We have had fantastic, positive feedback from parents and carers about this too. If you haven't had a call as yet, you will hopefully hear from your teacher next week at some point.

### Home learning

We are pleased that we have been able to continue with the same home learning as previous months even though all staff are now in a bubble. It is so important that our home schooled children continue to get the high quality home distance learning. If you have not accessed this as yet, please go to <https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/curriculum-2/> on our EPS website and click on the year group for your child. The first resource to visit is the home distance learning plan for each year group as this has all the learning on and the links to valuable websites and videos. You are very welcome to look at the home learning of the other year groups and watch all the teacher and teaching assistant videos across schools since lockdown. Here are some examples of Week 3 home distance learning.

Y1: <https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Week-3-1-Distance-Learning-plan.pdf>

Y4: <https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Week-3-1-Weekly-distance-learning-plan-Y4.pdf>

Y5: <https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Week-3-1-Distance-learning-plan.pdf>

Each week either a Teacher or a Teaching Assistant reads a story as we appreciate how much our children are missing the staff. With the older children, this video may be the beginning of a lesson or an introduction to a topic, for example. Again, please copy and paste the links below for week 3 as examples from our EPS curriculum section of our website:

Rec: Mrs Ramsey is reading Waves this week.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JpqGo4xfVrXbORf\\_JutDTFLaOlwvjvEVC/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JpqGo4xfVrXbORf_JutDTFLaOlwvjvEVC/view)

Y1: Here is a story from Mrs Kent to brighten up your week:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1DQYBIYRxtKG23J89HIJCfTC2VGs-oCyU>

Y2: Monkey Puzzle story with Mrs Southern

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OKijP0uS6tUWxlqi9ZINPSsfTbXpJVGa/view><https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OKijP0uS6tUWxlqi9ZINPSsfTbXpJVGa/view?usp=sharing>

Y3: Watch Mrs Chester teach about watercolours and how to create a wash for a landscape with a poppy field in the foreground. The video is in 2 parts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gACGNp1MwMQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gv3ey-R60IU>

Y4: Two towers story with Miss Gray

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17aZeidQAznAckcmAg05QEkm1ZdhEHoAN/view>

Y5: Introduction to a topic with Mrs Palmer-Young:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KQCZfBijfq9sTg-flpRZGWjdh10zDVqg/view>

Y6 Quiz with the y6 team, Mrs Marlow, Mr Tague and Mrs Pegg:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70L5kOGxiAc&feature=youtu.be>

### **Risk Assessment**

As with all Sheffield schools, we have adopted the Sheffield City Council Risk Assessment written by the Health and Safety team and Public Health England and made it relevant to our own setting at Ecclesall Primary School (approved by our Governing body). This is not a school policy but a live document that is added to as and when. Sheffield City Council Health and Safety team signed it off stating that it was “very thorough”. The latest version is on our EPS website: see link below:

<https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Ecclesall-Primary-School-Covid-Risk-Assessment-2020-5.pdf>

Our local SWIP schools have adopted the same approach too.

Please remember: **“Books, bags and equipment must stay in school and must not be taken home and then brought back. Children will have stationery for their sole use. Reading books will not be sent home and children should not be bringing books into school each day”**. This applies whether they are in a “bubble” in school or whether they are being home schooled.

### Live recordings such as Zoom

Some parents have asked whether we can do live recordings with the teachers. We have discussed this with our local SWIP schools and also with staff and governors. The vast majority of SWIP schools are not doing any live recordings and are doing pre-recorded videos like Ecclesall Primary school. There is some occasional use of Zoom for EHCP children but for safeguarding reasons, we would always have two adults present in this situation.

Now all our staff are in bubbles all day long, we do not feel we can deliver live recordings if we are to continue with the same home learning and pre-recorded videos. We are also prioritising for staff to make telephone contact with all children and parents/carers during any spare time they have.

### September 2020

Next week, we will be sending new class letters to everyone regarding September 2020. There will also be transition information in this letter as it will be very different for all children this year. We will also be sending a separate letter to all present Y2 children with their new class information.

Some parents have also asked what our plan is for September. At present there is no indication at a National or local level about what the expectation is. This may be frustrating but I can't even make a wild guess as to what the Government has in mind and therefore can't plan for it as yet. You will know when we know and possibly even before if you see the briefing on TV or a press release before we do. What I can promise is that, as soon as we do know, we will do everything that we can to ensure that the education and welfare of all children is taken into account. We just hope everything will be back to "normal" from September 2020.

I do hope the weather will clear up so that you are able to enjoy time outside over the weekend as a family.

Kind Regards

Emma Hardy

Head Teacher

Ecclesall Primary School