

22 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we are moving closer to the Government's planned 'phased re-opening' of schools within England, the school governors wanted to reflect on our school's success of continuing to operate and provide effective support and teaching to our pupils through these past difficult weeks. Of course, Upham Primary School was never truly closed, as Mr Woolley relevantly pointed out in his recent newsletter. Our school has remained open to care for vulnerable children and those of key workers throughout the crisis.

Most of our children, however, had to be taught via distance learning and it is clear when visiting our school website, reading the weekly messages from teachers and seeing the photos that pupils have sent in, just how much love, care and effort has gone into ensuring that our children have continued to receive challenging educational tasks, combined with the much needed interaction with their teachers and support staff. The governors are deeply appreciative for all the staff's commitment, sacrifices and never-ending imagination that is making this possible.

However, we also wanted to send our appreciation to you – our parents and carers, as without your support, effective home-learning would simply not be possible. School closures have added additional stresses to many families, as parents and carers have struggled to combine their own work and family commitments with supporting their children's school learning. The positive attitude with which families have embraced these challenges and their willingness to work in partnership with the school, is a true testament to how special our little school community is. Thank you all for your continued support!

We are aware that the proposed re-opening of primary schools is associated with much uncertainty and moving forward, schools will be facing an enormously challenging task to provide a safe but functional educational environment for our children. Many families may be concerned about the safety aspect for various reasons and pupils may be anxious about how they will be able to reengage with their peers after weeks of isolation. Please let us reassure you that the school's leadership team is working hard behind the scenes to develop the best possible solution for our families and the school.

The process will take time as we receive further information and guidance from Government departments. Please continue to keep in communication with the school (don't be afraid to ask questions) and follow Mr Woolley's announcements via the school newsletter. If your child is in year R, 1 or 6, please return Mr Woolley's request and inform the school whether you are planning to send your child into school from 1<sup>st</sup> June. Together we will be able to successfully master the next steps. If, at any stage, you are concerned about your child's mental wellbeing, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or reach out for help to professional organisations. There are many free, helpful services available, including:

<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/help/parents-carers/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.anxiousminds.co.uk/>

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/>

Until we can all be safely reunited - stay safe and well,

Upham School Governors