

"Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if only one remembers to turn on the light."



Tuesday 14<sup>TH</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have been enjoying the weather recently – it certainly helps to have nice weather when you're having to stay at home. At least we can go out in the garden and have nice weather on our daily exercise/walk around our local areas. I wanted to write to give you an update with what's happening recently and developments for us supporting your efforts to 'home school' your children.

Please be assured that if your children are at home, they are not falling behind. The children that are coming to school are not being taught the curriculum; they are here simply for childcare purposes. The curriculum has all been suspended nationally whilst this pandemic is ongoing. The only thing that we are asking that you definitely do is ensure you are supporting your child's reading – this will be most useful for when they return to school. The children in school are doing much the same activities that you are no doubt doing at home: baking, sowing and growing plants, arts and crafts, watching films and so on. However, as you are aware, we are also keen to support you in providing structure for the children at home. We have previously sent home packs of work, links to websites and continued to set work online (Spelling Shed, Purple Mash etc.). However, we are aware that this has had limited success and there are some parents that haven't been able to access certain things – I know this can be terribly frustrating.

Therefore, from Monday we have changed how we are going to set "Learning From Home" activities. On our school website at 9am Monday morning (20<sup>th</sup> April) we will be launching our "Home Learning" section of the website ([www.moorgateacademy.co.uk/home-learning](http://www.moorgateacademy.co.uk/home-learning))! Each week, this will be updated by our dedicated team of teachers to ensure that you are given guidance and structure for activities for the week. This will include: Maths activities, Reading, Writing and Topic. It will also remind you where to send the work when it is completed. To celebrate the learning that is shared, we shall also be adapting our 'Slider' on the homepage of the website weekly to ensure it showcases the learning that the children have been sharing. This is in addition to the continuing weekly Star of the Week assembly that we recently introduced on Facebook live (every Friday at 3pm). Unbelievably, last week's assembly has had over 1,200 views and has reached families in Wales, Cornwall and would you believe Los Angeles!!

Thank you also to the families that have been so accommodating and welcoming with the weekly phone call that teachers are making; it really is appreciated. Teachers have been very moved by some of your comments and have loved the conversations with the children, however brief. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated and professional staff that are continuing to work for your children even in the most trying of circumstances. I am sure you will join me in thanking the teachers, teaching assistants, office, caretaking, kitchen, lunchtime and cleaning staff who are on our rota, making it possible for us to support the NHS and other critical workers.

Finally, if there is anything that I can do to support you and your family further in this most trying of times, I hope you know that you only need ask. [headteacher@moorgateacademy.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@moorgateacademy.co.uk) 01827 215240

As always, follow the government advice; where possible, you and your child should stay at home, even if you are a key worker. Wash your hands regularly and do not make unnecessary journeys.

Take care, stay safe and hope to see you all back in school when all this is over.

My kindest and most sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Williams".

Mr. J. Williams (Headteacher)