



The Mill Messenger



National Support School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership
TKAT 

Update Letter

Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

We hope this finds you all well and that things are as manageable as they can be for you all. I haven't got any big updates with regard to school reopening but we've certainly been told to expect things to remain as they are until after Easter and that the current arrangements are likely to carry on for some weeks after that. But as always, I will let you know as soon as we hear anything else. We've had around 15 children each day and as last week, I can't thank you enough for only taking the school places if you are front line workers with no other options, as it means we keep numbers down to help with social distancing, keeping children and staff safer.

Firstly a big sorry to our Year 5's... how do you put up with such practical jokers as Mr Eagle and Mr Banks?? (For those of you that didn't see, you can look on Year 5's previous daily tasks to see the April Fools pranks they played on their classes! Thanks for playing along parents!)

Whilst our website and class Google sites are safe spaces for your children to be, as well as many other educational sites, I'm sure you don't need reminding about how now more than ever, it's important to keep a really close eye on what children are accessing online and who they are connecting with. Particularly for some of our KS2 ones, chat functions on certain apps or games can be very open to offensive or bullying language, as well as potentially inappropriate content.

Keep being curious about what they're up to on their phones, tablets and any online device and who they're talking to. We recommend looking at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> for easy to understand guidance, know-how and 'what to dos' for busy parents and carers.

Free School Meals

If you are entitled to free school meals, and were coming up to school to collect them, a voucher scheme will be replacing these. Also, please send your children in with a packed lunch from now if you are using a school place, as delivery of lunches into school will be stopping due to the vouchers. The office team have been working round the clock to get this system up and running so these vouchers should be with you shortly, but I ask you to be patient please as this is not a small task and they've had to set it up in a short amount of time.

For any of our families who might need extra support in addition to the food vouchers for children who are pupils at The Mill at this time, contact me at head@themill-tkat.org or Miss Plant deputy@themill-tkat.org directly. We have managed to set aside a small amount of funding for any of our families in need which you may be eligible for.

Easter

School is closed for bank holiday, but our staff are continuing to volunteer to be in school for the rest of the Easter holiday dates.

Marvellous Me

85% of you are signed up to Marvellous Me, but some of you still aren't. We've been using it in school for a while now and it's a super easy app to download that lets your child's teacher send you and your children online badges, messages and well done's. You don't need to reply or do anything - there's just a 'High 5' (like a 'like') to send back to say you've got them. Every child was issued with a join up code when we first launched Marvellous Me, if you have lost or forgotten it please email the office and we can give it to you again. <https://marvellousme.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Parent-Walkthrough.pdf>

Thank you this week

As last week, Miss Bettinson, Mrs Wheeler, Mrs Lane, Mrs Wright and Mrs Crockford have been on alternate remote shifts to help run the office, and this week the workload has been heavy for them; organising free school food vouchers, and supporting with logins and pupil access to online learning. Mr Chalmers, our Hugo and Mr Prior have also been keeping the school open and site safe on separate shifts and taking care of our animals.

Teachers and teaching assistants this week: Mrs Walsh, Miss Parkinson, Mrs Krauz-Bednarek, Mrs Creswell and Miss Plant. Thanks to them all.

Thank you on behalf of all of us at The Mill for keeping the positivity up in the community and for all your thank yous to various staff members-it means a lot to them all.

Kind regards,

Sophie Gosden
Headteacher

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