

In a world where you can be anything, be kind!

The pandemic has caused so much heart ache in so many ways. Losing loved ones, unable to see family members, worries for our health, loneliness and mental health issues, not forgetting the loss of education for our children.

But if there is one thing I will take from this awful time, it is the feeling of goodwill, camaraderie, the positive attitude people took to problems and the patience we all showed as all our everyday habits took longer while people and businesses had to put safe practices into place. The Thursday night clapping of the NHS was such a focus for everyone to share gratitude to our key workers but also relief that we were there, able to join in. The talk was all about how we learn from the pandemic, what we all hope we would continue to do, how we will remember the best of ourselves that shone through during that first lockdown.

The second lockdown has been harder in so many ways. Many are having to cope with furloughing again, reduced income or loss of employment altogether at a time when money is needed more than ever. We are all tired and stressed—when will it all end. So many things have not been affected by the lockdown requirements this time, notably schools are still open. So for many, the day to day stresses of getting children to school and the risks involved with so many people coming together are apparent and I know how distressing some families are finding it. All the more reason we remember the positives that came out of the first lockdown—the good feeling and positive approach we all showed towards each other.

In school recently there has been much in our curriculum about well being and caring for each other. We have focused on so many things this term—Black Lives Matter, Remembrance, Faith festivals, Children in Need (with our own heroes) and other charities to remind children how we should treat each other, care for each other and be mindful of the needs of other less fortunate than ourselves.

Yet despite all this, we are seeing some of the problems we had pre-pandemic begin to rise again. Last week I put a reminder of the age limits on social media. We are having more issues of children being hurtful and using bad language to each other on these platforms outside of school. Please work with us to keep your child safe on the internet, to think about the language they use and monitor the media they are accessing. But this is also a reminder to us all. Social media can be a wonderful support but also a place where people can say things that cause distress. Staff at school are working so hard in difficult teaching circumstances to help get our children enthused and excited to learn again, spending breaks and lunchtimes with their bubbles, trying to support gaps in learning without breaking the social distance requirements—all while keeping children and themselves safe from the virus so no-one takes it home to loved and vulnerable people in everyone's home bubbles. There are always going to be times when we don't get it right for everyone and it is so sad when we read of posts on social media complaining about school. Please share your concerns with us—not Facebook, and consider the impact these posts may have on others .

Staggered times at the start and end of the day are difficult for us all, but the one thing we thought it might help with was parking, as not everyone was arriving at the same time. Unfortunately, we have had complaints from Billy Wright Close and this week, one from the Post Office, because people are parking where they shouldn't. At a time when small businesses need all the support they can, we should be helping them, not blocking potential clients from using them. Sadly, it is the reports of bad language and the dismissive attitude that is used when people are asked to move that is the most disappointing, all in front of the children. We have also seen parents abuse each other, which is not acceptable, especially with children listening.

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We are all models for our children—we can make 2020 a positive year after all if we can say it has helped us teach them that we can all demonstrate more kindness, patience and respect for each other in our community. Thank you for your help and support with this.



So far , so good! We have not had to send any year groups home to isolate. Can I thank everyone for the efforts they are making to socially distance at the start and end of days and for wearing a mask when coming on to school property. I also want to thank all the staff who are going the extra mile every day to ensure we keep children safe and are taking every precaution to avoid the virus coming into school. So, a massive thank you to everyone.

The virus is closing in though. Thank you to all who phone in and inform us if there is someone in the family who have contracted the virus. It is important that if **you or a member of your household is showing symptoms , everyone in that household must self isolate**, do not wait until you have had a test. We are getting messages from other families concerned that children are in school when they believe members of that family have tested positive. We still have some families arrive at the gate with symptoms. It is difficult when the full picture is not known and it is understandable that others get worried so please can I just ask that we all follow guidelines carefully and not put others at potential risk.

If you have been asked to isolate due to contact, you must follow the instructions given to you—*you do not need to get a test unless you show symptoms* as it may come up negative while you are in fact incubating the virus.

Wear odd socks to support Anti Bullying Week!

Friday 20th November

This Friday we are wearing odd socks on purpose!!! Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage everyone to express themselves, celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!



Pudsey had a fabulous day last week! The range of heroes was humbling—doctors, delivery drivers, shopkeepers, nurses, teachers, mums, dads, site supervisors. Well done everyone. Despite our saying not to worry if the donation was too much this year, just have fun, we raised £403.44! A fantastic effort—thank you so much!

News from Mr McGregor's Garden!



Christmas Lunch Wednesday 9th December—look out for a flyer to book. We are aiming for every child to have a Christmas dinner on that day!



A huge thank you from all in the Office! The transition from cash to a cash-less system has gone very smoothly thanks to the overwhelmingly positive response from all of the parents. It has hopefully made it much easier for everyone as payments can be made online without having to come into school or count out the pennies!

Thank you as well for sending messages and questions by e mail or phoning rather than calling in. The less people come into school the better to keep everyone safe and all the Admin staff appreciate your efforts on their behalf as well.

A gentle reminder, please can all adults and over 12s coming on to the school site, wear a mask (except those with medical exemption). It needs to fit over mouth and nose. Thank you.