



Banks Lane Junior School

Communication, Collaboration, Curiosity, Resilience, Reflection



The Weekly Roar!

Friday 3rd April, 2020
283rd Edition

A LETTER FROM MR MILNER

Dear Parents/carers - can you please share this with your children?

Good afternoon Banks Lane (feel free to repeat - just like we do in assembly!)

It has been a very busy couple of weeks since I last saw you. I just wanted to send you all a letter before we broke up for Easter. School does not seem the same without 359 of you roaming about! I am missing welcoming you all and talking to you at lunchtime - you might think I do these things because I have to - I don't! I am around before school and during dinner time because I want to be! You are the people that make me smile every single day and make our school amazing. I must admit, I have not missed moaning about shoes, coloured hairbands and tucking your shirt in though!

You may be wondering where I have been? I have been working with staff in school to make sure that the children who remain in school are safe and well looked after - I have been busy reading information from the government and the Local Authority (hundreds of emails!) to make sure everyone is safe. I have been busy organising staff rotas, talking to staff, making sure that the families who ask for help have got it, talking to the Local Authority, and supporting staff to do what they need to do. Despite only having a few children in, we have all been very busy! The school is looking amazing too. Mr Sinclair and his team have been working tirelessly on a full deep clean throughout school - so that when you return it will be immaculate.

Whilst I have been in school, Mr Bassett and the teachers have been organising all the remote learning that you can access from home. I am so proud of your teachers, teaching assistants and admin staff - they have been amazing! 'Remote Learning' did not exist two weeks ago! I have been enjoying the daily blog from Mr Bassett (apart from his jokes!). It has been wonderful to see all the fantastic work you have completed at home - please keep it coming - the more pictures, poems, artwork, photos we have the better! Your ideas are inspiring others!

It has been great to hear about the varied things that you have been learning. I have been learning too. This week I learnt how to hold video conferences with staff and we now hold these regularly! I even completed a Joe Wicks workout when I worked from home on Monday - I was rugby tackled by my 10 year old half way through though!! And poked with a 'magic wand' by my 7 year old when I was being Spiderman!!

It is important to keep up your 'schooling' when you are at home - but I totally understand that it won't look like a normal day. Please do not put too much pressure on yourselves - but equally don't sit on your X-Box all day! Take some time to enjoy life, keep in touch with relatives and friends. Phone your grandparents - they will be missing you! The work is there to support you and your parents to get through the next few weeks. We won't be collecting it in - you can send pictures of your work to your year group leaders who will send them to Mr Bassett for the Blog. Just do your best!

Try and make sure that you keep reading - this will help you so much in all your learning. Remember the words on our red wall in the school library, they say: '*Reading gives us somewhere to go when we have to stay where we are*'. This comment is made for now! Escape from where you are - read about treasure islands, distant lands, space, and fantasy landscapes anything or anywhere to take you away.

I would also like you to share a message to your parents - they are being amazing! I have heard wonderful stories of parents becoming your teachers and completely changing their life to support you. Some have given up work or even lost their jobs and many are now working from home. Siri and Alexa have been useful teaching assistants in the Milner house - you can ask them anything - give your parents space when they need it! I also know that some parents can't stop working as they are key workers - the country needs them! We as a family have taken part in the 'carers clap' at 8pm on Thursdays - I have been truly moved by the noise up and down my own street. I hope you have taken part too! As a parent myself I know how worried everyone is - and if parents need help - please contact us. Our admin@bankslane-jun.stockport.sch.uk is monitored every day. We may be closed but we still want to help. If you can't access anything online - or have run out of resources, or just need help - please let us know.

As we approach the Easter holidays please take a chance to reflect on the past few weeks - all our lives have changed - and this is something that we all need to get through. Make sure you use your exercise time well and get well rested. Again - don't just sit on the X-Box. Spend some time with your family - bake a cake, cook a meal, read a book, learn to juggle, watch a cheesy family film together (Disney+ are offering a one week free trial - watch it for a week for free!)

My house is just the same as yours - I don't want you thinking I live in a mansion - I don't! I understand the need for space - the one message we keep talking about at home is 'be kind'. My children keep falling out with each other too - we keep reminding them that they need to 'be kind' to each other and us! What can you do to make home life even better? Clear the table after your meal? Make your brother/sister a drink? Vacuum the lounge? Make your bed? Not leave a mess everywhere!? Have a lie in? A small change by you could have a huge impact on the rest of your house.

Please remember that you are now 'living history'. In fifty years you may be telling your grand-children about life during the Coronavirus - make sure you have some good stories to tell and possibly keep a diary (it worked for Anne Frank and Samuel Pepys). You may be sharing your diary with the nation one day and it could be a best seller!

Finally remember your Learning Powers - there is no better time than now to be **resilient** - face each new day confidently and with energy, **collaborate** with your family - work together, **reflect** on changes in yourself and improvements you can make, be **curious** - learn a new skill and **communicate** with respect and kindness to those around you.



Keep yourself safe - stay in - stay safe, and..... be kind!

All the very best. Take care,

Mr Milner

This newsletter is emailed weekly to parents/carers. Please let us know if you would like us to email it to you.

It is also available on our website at www.bankslane-jun.stockport.sch.uk

If you have any queries or concerns, please email admin@bankslane-jun.stockport.sch.uk or phone the school office on 0161 480 2330

We have introduced a dedicated Coronavirus helpline for vulnerable people. This means that the most vulnerable people in Stockport will be able to access support Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 4pm, by calling 0161 217 6045.

Call handlers for the Council will then be able to provide advice about how you can access practical support including local support for those that are isolated and feel alone. More information can be found here: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/.../coronavirus-covid-19-helpline...>



Although our building is closed, we are still here providing support for families affected by cancer, serious illness and bereavement.

Professionals can still make referrals and individuals can still make a self-referral

Support for families and children is available by phone

Call us: 0161 476 0384

family@beechwoodcancer.org.uk

Follow us on social media

Beechwood Cancer Care
@beechwoodccc



Supporting people and families through cancer, serious illness and bereavement
Beechwood Cancer Care, Clifford Grove, Stockport
Registered Charity No. 220013

Happy Birthday over the holidays to,



- Daniel, 5B
- Evie, 3S
- Layton, 3B
- Maxwell, 3L
- Summer, 3S
- Lola, 3B
- Miley-Jai, 3S
- Ethan, 4L
- Ava, 3L
- Ava Mai, 4B
- Lucy, 4B
- Elizabeth, 6B
- Alexander, 6B
- Evie, 4B

USEFUL WEBSITES

CEOPS

CEOP help young people who are concerned about on-line images and communications.

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_13/help/CEOP/

Family Lives

Family Lives is a charity with over three decades of experience helping parents to deal with the changes that are a constant part of family life.

<http://www.familylives.org.uk/>

Guidance for Parents re Instagram

http://www.connectsafely.org/wp-content/uploads/instagram_guide.pdf

Kidscape

'Preventing Bullying, protecting children'

<https://www.kidscape.org.uk/what-we-do/>

Kidsmart

<http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/>

Netmums

The network offers information to parents about parenting on a national level. Amongst the topics are child welfare, maternity, playgroups, child health and child safety.

<http://www.netmums.com/>

NSPCC NetAware

https://www.net-aware.org.uk/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Grant_shareaware2014&utm_term=nsppcc_net_aware&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI6rq9lqCa1QIV77XtChOnOw-aEAYASAAEgIawPD_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.ds

Stockport SEND Local Offer

<https://stockport.fsd.org.uk/kb5/stockport/fsd/localoffer.page>

UK Safer Internet Centre

E-safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe on the internet.

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>