



17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to 'virtual' school. I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break and some quality time with your families. It is lovely to be 'back' at school in some format, the staff were keen to make our return special for all, therefore, with Mr Byrne as 'director' and 'producer' filmed a message for the children. If you haven't seen the finished spectacle please visit our website: <https://willowsprimaryaltrincham.secure-primariesite.net/topic/children>

I can't quite believe that this is the 4th weekly update that I am writing to you - meaning that we have been on lock down for a whole month. Needless to say we are missing you all terribly and are sad to acknowledge that this situation will continue for at least another 3 weeks.

However, on a positive note we are delighted with the success of 'Seesaw' for Year 1 - 6. It is wonderful to be able to see what the children are doing at home. We are amused by the funny videos and anecdotes, we love seeing photos of the children's daily exercise and walks and of course are impressed by the wonderful learning that is going on. It is great to see what a brilliant balance you have all created between having fun and learning. It is fantastic for us to be able to have some interaction with the children and hope this brings a little normality to these strange times.

If you haven't signed up for Seesaw yet, please visit the website <https://willowsprimaryaltrincham.secure-primariesite.net/covid-19/> to read the letter sent out by Mr Byrne with instructions on how to get going.

We appreciate that many of you have been working so hard that your home school learning books are filling up quickly. If you run out of space there are new books in boxes at the school gates every week day - please feel free to walk past school on your daily exercise and take what you need.

We were delighted to send out a link this week to Year 1 and Year 2 parents, allowing them to view the filming of the Key Stage 1 production 'Pirates versus Mermaids'. I would like to thank all the staff who worked so hard to prepare the children to present the show. A huge thank you has to go to Wes Wood, one of our parents, who came in and videoed the presentation for us and worked on a format that allowed us to make it available to parents. Thankfully we have Mr Byrne as our IT guru in school and he has been able to post this on a secure site and provide a secure link for Key Stage 1 families.

Thank you once again for your lovely emails and now appreciative posts on Seesaw. It means so much to us to know that we are doing something positive in responding to running a school and learning in such a different way. I think we all have to remind ourselves that there is no 'right or wrong', everyone is doing the best they can in circumstances that none of us could have imagined a month ago. I am proud of our staff and whole school community, I believe you should be proud of yourselves and your families too!



School continues to be open for the children of key workers. We too are trying to get a balance between fun and learning! The staff are incredible; coping with children of mixed ages from Nursery through to Year 6, supporting them with their learning and delivering exciting creative activities and just being there for our pupils. The children themselves are also brilliant and we love spending time with them.

I do hope that in the coming weeks we will learn about an exit strategy and what this will mean for schools. Unfortunately, I do not know any more than you do! As a staff we will work our hardest to make sure that any transition back to school is as smooth as possible. Let's all hope this will be before the end of the Summer term.

In the meantime, take care of each other, stay healthy and happy.

My thoughts are with you all.

Mrs Warren