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**Headteacher:** Mr Ben Paxman  
**Chair of Governors:** Mr Alex Munro

13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you to all those of you who completed the Home Learning Survey. Your feedback is really helpful as we continue to refine how we are supporting children to continue their learning while staying at home. You will know that we are planning towards a phased re-opening of school, starting with FS2, Year 1 and Year 6. Nevertheless, we will continue to offer home learning for all classes during term time until all our children have returned to school.

Firstly, and most importantly, thank you so much for doing such a fantastic job in encouraging children to continue to learn and work hard. It isn't easy to juggle working from home and keeping children going in these uncertain times, so thank you for picking up the chalk while we are all staying at home! There were some really good ideas from you in our survey on how we can improve our home learning:

- Lots of you said that you find it useful having one set of resources per day on the website, so we'll keep doing this. If you are printing resources, you could save paper and ink by looking at which pages you *need* to print, and which you don't.
- Some of you said that it would be more helpful to have the resources put on the website earlier. For the week beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May, resources will be uploaded by 7pm the Friday before (15<sup>th</sup> May).
- Some of you said it was really helpful when there was a way to easily check your children's work, such as an answer sheet or video. We'll keep that up too, and try to add more answer sheets for tasks that can be checked as correct or incorrect. Where we can, we'll give more examples to compare children's work to.



- Some of you were concerned that children's learning would suffer in the weeks away from the classroom. We are working extremely hard behind the scenes to design the curriculum for when we do get back to school so children catch up quickly. The Mercia Learning Trust is working together with all of its schools, including Totley Primary, to make sure they are in the best possible place for when we get back into the classroom.
- Most children are spending between 2 and 3 hours on their learning. Please do what you know is best for your child. Your family's well-being is the most important thing right now, so if getting out into the garden is the best thing to do, do it and don't make a battle over getting home learning finished if that is what your child needs in that moment. Not all tasks need to be completed every day. Some children are completing everything; others are doing a bit less to help find a sustainable routine. Do what's right for you and your family.
- Feedback is a vital part of learning and it's very difficult to replicate the high levels of feedback children are used to in the classroom while we are working at a distance. As well as more answer sheets and examples to check work against, we want to encourage you to get in touch with teachers about your children's learning. 65% of you said that you've been in touch for feedback and the feedback was helpful. We want to hear from you even more! That way, we can celebrate more children's work through sharing on the class blogs and in the Friday celebration assembly, and praising children's efforts with Headteacher's Awards. Please email a photo of their work, whenever you feel it would be helpful, to encourage children and to get the praise they rightly deserve! Lots of you are already doing so and that's fantastic! In their email replies, teachers will celebrate learning but won't give lots of pointers for things to change and edit in children's work (that might be demoralising after trying so hard!). If you get in touch for some tips on how to tackle a question, we will give you advice on how to approach it. Teachers will get back to you as soon as they can within normal working hours.

We will be in touch again very soon with more details on the phased re-opening of school. To reiterate though, we will continue to facilitate home learning as best we can for each class until children have returned full-time to school.

Thank you again for all that you are doing to support children's learning. Again, I would encourage you to get in touch with your child's teacher for advice, feedback and to share the great learning (academic or otherwise!) that is happening across Totley.

Your sincerely,



Ben Paxman  
Headteacher