



Mousehold Infant and Nursery School Mousehold Avenue Norwich NR3 4RS
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Friday 15th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I've been doing a lot of thinking and reflecting this week. There have been some really special moments over the last few weeks when the school community has come together and we have seen such incredible strength and resilience. One example is the Mousehold Facebook Page. This is a very joyful, positive page and has been very well received by families and staff. The page feels alive and it feels like we are together.

The children who have been in school have made some new friends and had some happy, fun times and have shown great resilience and strength of character.

The staff have been working extremely hard over the last few weeks. A large proportion of our staff are on a rota to be in school caring for the children who are in every day. The staff who are at home have been working hard on online learning for themselves as well as setting interesting activities for your children's home learning. Teachers are in the middle of writing reports. Some staff have been caring for poorly or elderly relatives and some staff have been supporting people in their community. At all times the staff are supportive of each other and always go the extra mile. Staff are finding new ways of working through the use of technology. This has really shown how our staff have used their growth mindset to learn a new skill. I want to use this newsletter to publicly thank all of the staff for the wonderful work they continue to do.

I am proud of the families at Mousehold for your positivity in these difficult times. You have supported the school and I know you are doing the best for your children. Like I have said in previous letters this looks different in each household and no way is right or wrong. You must continue to do what is best for your family. We have received such lovely letters and e mails from some families and we are hearing how you are looking after each other.

We have interviewed for three new teachers this week. I will be in a position to let you know who these teachers are after half term. The process of interviewing has been different to usual. We did it over video link and all of the senior leadership team learnt how to do this for the first time. We are very pleased with our appointments.

Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Westall Deputy Headteacher: Mr Ian Tolson
Designated safeguarding leads: Mrs Westall, Mr Tolson, Miss Wood



News from the staff:

Mrs Jennings - I was proud of baking a honey loaf on Monday! We all polished it off in one sitting so that was a good sign and I've been asked to bake more bread so it can't have been too bad.

Mrs Conway – I have enjoyed gardening, made every Jamie Oliver pasta recipe and spending time with my children.

Mr Tolson – When I'm not at work I have enjoyed reading Science Fiction books and I love listening to music. I have also enjoyed spending more time with my family in the evenings.

Mrs Rayner - This is Moppet, helping me post the last batch of Nursey admission packs!



I will be sending a survey out to Nursery and Reception parents using Parent Mail on Monday to gather your views on whether you would want to send your child back to school if the government allows that to happen before the summer holidays. I'm sure you have seen in the news that parents will **NOT be fined** if they don't send their children to school. We understand and appreciate it is your decision. The guidance, since the Prime Ministers speech on Sunday, has made clear that in an Infant School the year groups to return first will be **Nursery and Reception**. This doesn't include Year 1 or Year 2 initially. If we do reopen then it will be a phased return with very few children initially to enable us to try to adhere to the safety measures as far as possible. My main concern is that very young children can't social distance and I would need more realistic guidance on how to keep children and staff safe before any decision is made as to when we reopen. **This will not be as early as 1st June**. Our priority next week is to complete a full risk assessment on what we need to base our decisions on. Safety has to go to be our priority. **We will only open school before the summer holidays if it is safe to do so**. I'm sorry I can't be clearer at this stage.

Mousehold will be closed over halfterm. If any key worker families need care for their children over halfterm then please e mail or ring the school office by Tuesday 19th May. We will arrange care for your children at a different school within the trust.

Please stay safe, take care and keep in touch,

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Rebecca Westall
Headteacher

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