




28.5.20

Dear Families

I hope that this letter finds you all well. Over the past week I have regularly counted our blessings that this current COVID19 experience has occurred during the Spring months and we have been lifted by blue skies and sunshine. Can you imagine how challenging it would have been during the Winter?

I am thrilled to begin by sharing news of a special message for our Middleton Community. You can access the message through this link; <https://youtu.be/f6d29pZ91nw> or by simply opening up our website and clicking on the link on the opening page. I am sure like me you will be amazed at the creative talents of our staff team and will also enjoy the sincerity of the message being delivered. We do miss all of our children so much and we all look forward to our weekly virtual lessons as much as the children do!

I hope that you have all been busy with our ARTY CRAFTY HALF TERM.  The ideas on the web site are great and I hope that you have got messy with a few creative sessions at home. We would love for you to share some photos with us through the home learning address at homelearning@middleton.herts.sch.uk. We will then use these images to create a new musical video to share on the website . . . with your children and their masterpieces as the shining stars!

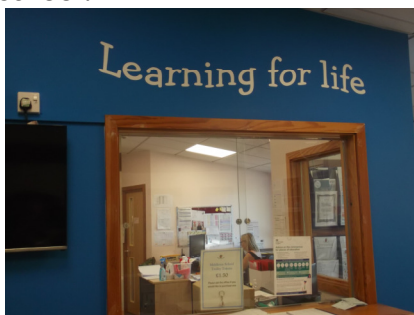
We have been very grateful to those families who have shared images with us already and have created two large displays within school; one for VE Day and one for home learning.



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When we receive images relating to our arty crafty half term we will issue a special newsletter sharing your work. We have been feeling rather 'arty' ourselves as we have undertaken some re-decoration around school. I hope that you will admire our new front foyer when you are next able to visit the school!



We are also in the process of re-decorating the staffroom. Our new colour scheme doesn't quite match the very old 'pink' . . . yes, 'pink' kitchen cupboards which have stood there for many years. If any families know of anyone currently having a new kitchen fitted - with old cupboards- or even cupboard doors, to spare then we would gratefully receive any donations which may bring us into the 21st century! Please contact the school office if you can help.

As I type this letter, I believe Boris is preparing to give the nation an update on the state of play for a national phased re-opening of schools. New guidance was issued on Tuesday of this week for a phased re-introduction of pupils into special schools. It is important that I share with you that the methodology, expectations and plans for mainstream schools are not the same as those issued for special schools. The guidance states that there is no specified cohort that should be re-introduced first within special schools. This means that the national goal of returning Reception, Year One and Year Six pupils does not stand within specialist settings. It is up to the individual schools to plan a phased return of pupils who will be able to manage the specific health and safety measures that need to be put in place. You will already be aware that at Middleton School we are beginning to re-introduce some Year Six pupils back into our school environment. (Year Six parents will receive further information on this tomorrow). We will need to observe this process and learn from these experiences before we consider the re-introduction of more pupils. I am aware that parents share a broad range of views on this topic and that this is an anxious time for many families. As soon as I have any further information I promise to share it with you – this may be quicker than anticipated depending upon what Boris says tonight!

So, to summarise, keep up the arty crafty work and do explore all of the activities shared on the website – there will be something to suit everyone. Send in any images you are happy to share with others and we will celebrate your achievements! Watch our special staff message to all of our families (with tissues handy!).

And finally, well done to everyone! We have now survived 10 weeks of these unprecedented circumstances and we are so proud of all of our pupils and their families. Stay safe, stay happy and stay in touch!

Thinking of you all

Mrs Hartley

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