



26th June 2020

Dear Children

I thought I would write you a letter to keep in touch. Normally I write to your mums and dads, but this time the letter is just for you. (You can let them read it if you like!)

So how are you? It can't be easy for you. It's not easy for any of us really. We have all had to adapt and change. We have had to learn new ways of doing things that could, in the end, help to make the world a better place.

I expect that you will have heard lots of things about the opening of schools and I was thinking that for some of you it must be quite hard to understand what is happening and more importantly what is happening with your school.

I am going to try and explain... The children who are coming to Houghton Conquest at the moment are in Preschool, Robins and Doves. All the other children in school have parents whose job is important in making sure everyone in the community is cared for properly - which is sensible isn't it?

In school, we have had to put some different things in place so that we don't get too close to one another. This has meant we have had to halve the number of children in each of the classrooms and everybody sits at their own table. Each of the 'bubble groups' has to remain completely separate from each other; this also means for lunchtime and playtimes! It is all a little strange really.

At the beginning of all of this, when we thought it all through and did some maths, we knew quite soon that we would not have enough classrooms, or teachers, for children in Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 to come back before the summer holidays, but we crossed our fingers and hoped that something might of changed.

Mr Johnson, our Prime Minister, has recently told us that we have all done very well to follow the rules to stay apart from each other and because of this, the rate of infections of Covid-19 has gradually come down to quite a low level. This is really good news, however I think he would like it to be even lower and has asked all Headteachers, like me, to wait a bit longer before welcoming the whole school back.

So...your teachers and I are really sad that we haven't seen you for such a long time and we are even sadder that it looks like we won't be seeing your lovely smiling faces again until possibly September when hopefully things may have changed. Let's keep our fingers crossed for that now!

Until then, your teachers will keep on trying their best for you for the rest of the term by staying in touch via your class email. I am so impressed by what I have seen from you - working independently, having to work things out for yourself and helping out around the house! I know how hard you are working, and you inspire me to work hard too.

All of the staff have been thinking about each and every one of you and are missing you all so dearly. The corridors are much quieter without you all, but if I am using my honesty value, I do prefer them noisier!

Mrs Sebborn and I have been having lots of discussions recently too; we are both thinking about children who may be feeling very anxious or worried for whatever reason. Mrs Sebborn is brilliant at helping children cope with anxiety and talking to them about their worries and, sadly, she isn't able to do that at the moment. Instead, she and I have made lots of phone calls and are happy to put some activities together if you feel like you would like them.

If you have not done so already, come and look at Sid the Values snake. Ms Harvey's incredible idea has meant lots of children and people from our community have added colourful pebbles to Sid and now he is growing very long! Come and have a look, outside the front of our school or on the news page on our website.

I think that is probably enough from me for now. If you want to send me an email, you can always use your class email address for this and I will get back to you when I can. Even though we do not have all the children in school I seem to be just as busy!

Hang in there and stay positive everyone. We will get there in the end and I hope we get to see each other again soon.

Yours sincerely



Miss J Heaslip
Acting Headteacher

