

Learning for Life!



Headteacher: **Ms Annemari Ottridge** M.Ed. NPQH NPQEL

3rd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

How are you all and where do I begin?

Easter is just a week away, and I can honestly say there's never been an end of term like this. I really do appreciate how challenging it has been for all of us – students, parents, carers and staff. I'm so touched by how we've coped and by the ways you have supported each other and the kindness you've shown. It's our values in action and that means a lot to each of us in the school community. What it shows is that we all believe in Lonsdale and that, whatever the circumstances, we can and will put our students and their needs first.

We go forward as a school under our 'Learning for Life' banner and, faced with a world turned upside down by Coronavirus, the staff team has been nothing less than magnificent in putting together our Home Learning programme so that everyone can continue to be at school – learning and growing whilst at home.

I love seeing your home learning photos each day and it's so encouraging to get your feedback. There's lots to see in the student area of our website, so please do visit it as often as you can. And in the meantime, I'd like to share a handful of messages from the website with you. They tell me how important it is that we keep on communicating with and learning from each other. So whatever you're thinking or feeling, join the conversation when you can.

"I just wanted to say wow!!! How amazing it is to see what all the children are doing and how amazingly everyone is adapting their work, it's a huge achievement!" (GC, LSA)

"We have turned our dining room table into a classroom for our Home Learning! Our school is called Holly Walk School. After breakfast my son arrived with his schoolbag on his back! He made a little library in the living room." (HP, pupil, and his mum)

"Creating a place of learning is one thing. Creating a culture of learning, of a love of learning and of learning for life is another. Seeing the pictures of our students involved and excited for their learning despite the challenges in accessing it makes me proud of every one of our staff and students." (JS, Chair of Governors)

We're just about to begin a two-week break. None of us can be sure of what's ahead. But we've enough evidence to show that we can cope as a school and as a community. Whatever the next few months bring, we can be confident that these difficult times will pass and we should look forward with hope, knowing that tomorrow will bring better days. I can't help noticing that all around us spring is advancing, the days are longer, the sun brighter, the landscape greener. And I'm sure that is the message of hope we should all believe in.

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I know that lots of you will be experiencing a ‘different’ Easter and I’d like to thank you for everything you are doing for your families, our community and the bigger society. Here at Lonsdale we will make sure that we do our bit and that we keep closely in touch with you to keep you in the picture about what we plan and can do.

We have set up a help button for your email questions on our website, and we will also open an on-call helpline which is there to support you during the two week break. I hope that we can be there for you in your hour of need and reassure you that our commitment to your child and your family is there during these uncertain times.

The help-line number is 07535795202 and it will be open from 9.00 – 15.00 every working day, not including weekends or bank holidays.

Please use this help-line **only for an emergency.**

As you know, all schools are closed until further notice and we will follow the central Government guidance on a daily basis. At this moment of time, we are going to open the school **ONLY** for key workers’ children, and those identified as vulnerable on Monday, 20th April.

Those families who are part of this cohort have been notified. **Please do not send your child to school until you have had contact from the school that it is safe to do so.**

In the meantime, Happy Easter, wherever you are, whatever you are doing and thank you for everything.

Warmest wishes

Annemari Ottridge
Headteacher

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