Dear families...

We hope you are all safe and well and doing the best you can under the circumstances. We are aware that the media have been speculating about when schools might return and on this point there are a few things to mention:

1. We currently have as much information as you do and are waiting to hear from Boris Johnson, when he addresses the nation later in the week, about our next steps.

2. Rest assured that we are 100% committed to doing our very best for your children and as such we will ensure we are ready to return when the Government asks us to. This will take a lot of careful planning and in this process we will leave no stone unturned - we care about every child, parent and staff member enormously and so our plans will be meticulous.

3. Mental health and the wellbeing of children, the community and the staff will be at the forefront of all we do.

Many of you have taken the time to contact us on the virtual classrooms to share positivity and support - thank you for this. We also know that many families will have been through unbelievably challenging times and this leads me onto a message we received from a parent this week - please take the time to read what is said below. We couldn’t agree more with the sentiment - everyone has their own challenges and obstacles to overcome so please be kind to yourself.

Thanks for your ongoing support.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Kind regards

Steve Taylor
Executive HT
Robin Hood MAT
DON'T BE BRAVE

Hey. I hope life is being as kind as it can be to you in lockdown and that there is the odd silver lining somewhere.

We have three children at Robin Hood. They're currently spending two days at school each week because I'm a key worker and three days at home with me doing my best to attempt some form of home schooling and then working more once my husband is home.

We really miss our Robin Hood Family; I've been doing the school run for eight years and didn't realise quite how much we valued seeing all of your lovely faces everyday until we stopped seeing them.

I imagine, as parents, we've all had additional challenges during lockdown and ours has been the death of the children's grandad who died just after we all got locked down. He didn't die from COVID-19, but the COVID-19 situation has meant we haven't been able to grieve as a family or say goodbye properly and that we've had to try to guide our children through lockdown and grief with heads that are so full.

I'm a naturally anxious person so anxiety about COVID-19, a whole list of other things stemming from COVID-19 plus grief has been overwhelming for me, but the support we've received from school has been amazing. I never doubted that school would be there for us, but I didn't know quite how much and I can't even put into words how grateful I am. They have shared resources and ideas with us, called us regularly just to listen, sent us emails and offered us referrals to other services if we've wanted them.

This isn't a story about our grief or our challenges as a family. I'm sure we're not the only ones struggling and that's the point of me writing this. I really just want other parents to be reassured that it's okay to ask school for help and moreover to know that school are there to support you. They miss the children and us. Our families are the reason they go to work everyday and they work hard in anyway they can for us even if we don't see it. Don't worry that they're too busy; we're their busy and they want nothing more than to help us.

I saw a post on the Twitter account of Damian Barr recently which said, "We are not all in the same boat. We are all in the same storm. Some are on super-yachts. Some have just the one oar."

Lockdown is different for all of us and we’re all just doing our best. This isn’t a time to be proud or brave or compare ourselves to the people next door. Our children need us and so sometimes that means we need somebody else. If that means school please call them.

Take care and stay safe. I can’t wait to see you all back at school.

What’s been happening this week?

Click on the picture below to see what’s been going on across our schools and at home this week. We have some really creative and talented artists that have enjoyed the learning projects over the past couple of weeks. Keep up the great work…