

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Connaught Parents and Carers,

Well, another week has gone by in our strange new world and I think we should all give ourselves a big pat on the back for surviving it intact, with good humour and positivity. It seems like longer than two weeks since the school was forced to close and we miss you all so much! I hope all is happy in your households and that you are keeping well.

I wanted to start by letting you know about what is happening over Easter. The wonderful Mrs Saunders has been busy working with the TAs on ideas for a pared back version of a timetable for your children for over the 'break' and some activities for your children to follow if they would like to. She hasn't put on her slides anywhere that it is optional, as I know that some of you would struggle to persuade your children to do them if she did, but it is completely optional should you need some structure for the next few weeks. If you feel the structure is useful, please use the resources. If you need a break, that is fine too. We will leave it up to you. Assemblies also may be posted over the next two weeks so please keep a look out for those.

Please be advised that my teachers will not be checking or responding to emails so please do not send any over the Easter period. They have been working incredibly hard and I would like them to have a break to focus on their own families. I would like to take this opportunity to, once again, thank the wonderful staff who have been producing, checking and posting the online resources, as well as managing 100s of emails a week and touching base with every family. I know that you have found all of this very useful. As an interesting fact, as of last week, we had 8,300 hits on our website! I know for a fact that children other than our Connaught children are finding our videos helpful in supporting their learning.

As you know, Years 4 and 6 have been booked to go on residential trips. The office staff and Heads of Year are liaising with the providers and we will have some news for you soon. Thank you for your patience with this.

I know there has been some anxiety from the Year 6 children over missing some of the special activities that we put on for them over the final weeks in Year 6. This is such an important part of marking the end of their time at Connaught. If this goes on longer than we hope and the end of the year is missed, please be reassured. Year 6, we **will** be inviting you back for the end of year party, we **will** be inviting you back for the Graduation (which will be a lovely **evening** affair), you **will** get to do your shirt signing and I **will** be proudly leading you out of the school for the last time with the ringing of the school bell. That is a promise!

Transition, we recognise, will be tricky but we will be working with the senior schools to make this as smooth as possible. For our Year 2s joining us, we will do everything that we can to replicate the induction process even if it is a little different to normal. We have a cunning plan!

Headteacher: Miss S McGann

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs K Saunders

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Some fantastic staffing news is that we will be rejoined by Mrs Richardson who is coming back from maternity leave. And happily for us, Miss Herrige is back in the UK as she had to cut short her travels because of the current global situation. Although we are sad for her that she didn't get to complete her travelling, we are delighted that she is also rejoining us to work remotely with the children in Year 4. Welcome back both!

I would like to recognise the work that our key worker parents are doing to keep our country going in extremely difficult circumstances. Whether they are NHS workers, charity workers, shop workers, etc - we are very proud to serve you. I would also like to recognise Mrs Saunders and Mrs Littlewood who have both advised me, supported me, made me laugh and generally propped me up during the tough times. As I have said to all my staff at Connaught, I stand on the shoulders of giants. I thank them so much and thank goodness for them all!

Now, I know that things may be tricky for some of you over Easter. We will be three and four weeks into isolation. Please do try to stay positive and upbeat. And please, please take care of yourselves.

Kind regards, best wishes and have a peaceful Easter.

Miss McGann