



# Mill Water School

admin@millwater.devon.sch.uk | www.millwater.devon.sch.uk | 01395 568890

19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Well thank goodness the weather is due to change back to the sun we've become accustomed to. Thank you to those parents/carers who have packed for every eventuality to ensure the walks out and garden sessions have been able to continue. A big thank you too from Devon CC for those parents that have transported their children to school.

Staff continue to report positively about seeing the children face to face and we have increased our contact yet again. 81% of our pupils have been with staff either in the school, in the grounds or out in their communities. I have seen many smiley faces in zoom session screenshots and the range of activities in these sessions include treasure hunts, sing and sign, stories, shared reading, bucket sessions, online safety discussions, phonics, quiz time, Simon says and many more. We have discovered many hidden talents from staff and the enthusiasm they have shown has been incredible. Thank you for all the ideas you have shared and for the positivity you bring to all these sessions.

In April we were due for some playground equipment installations that the company couldn't carry out due to Covid-19, but the good news is we now have a wheelchair swing installed in our playground. This is the first step of a huge project to improve our grounds for the full range of pupils and has created a real excitement amongst our young people. The work on these plans and fundraising continues behind the scenes with our playground group that include parents, teachers, physios and our fundraiser alongside our successful PTFA. We have loved seeing how much our pupils relish the outdoors in their own communities and our plans will enable us to build on this and enhance the well-being, mental health and physical skills of all our children.

Staff who are not seeing pupils daily continue to deliver resources, provide zoom sessions for classes & individuals, plan & make resources and provide fun & interesting activities on the website. Again if there is anything you would like to see on there, please get in touch.

Having just watched this evening's briefing I am really heartened to hear that the government wants to see all pupils back in school in September. Much as I love entertaining you all with baby shark sketches I can't think of anything I would rather have, so we are working hard on the September return. It would be foolish to say this was written in stone but as soon as the government announces the next stages I will be in touch again.

SLT and teachers continue to discuss plans for next year and due to the terrible break in this academic year our plans will be to keep the classes as static as we can. We haven't yet had our pupil numbers finalised so we can't set out exactly what classes will be, however when we do we will include details of how we will make the transition as smooth as possible for your child.



I've included a photo of the most delicious looking Victoria sponge which BL, one of our class 2 parents, baked for a local hero Zaq who ran 60 half marathons in 60 days for the NHS. BL met him on the finish line with this incredible looking sponge which was made all the better due to the inclusion of Harry G's golden eggs. Harry is one of our 6<sup>th</sup> formers and has been collecting, boxing & selling eggs from his own chickens to staff & local residents for over a year. BL said *"Harrys eggs have played a massive part in this cake as without them the cake wouldn't rise"*. Well done Harry.



Wishing you a good weekend.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Pickering