



***Bridestowe Primary School – With Respect and Ambition We Flourish Together***

**8<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

### **Message from Mr Hill**

The start of this new term was not quite what was planned.

We, as a multi academy trust, made the very difficult decision to delay the full reopening of schools at 4.30 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January, giving you, as parents and carers, very little time to prepare to have your children at home. It was little comfort when the PM announced national school restrictions just a few hours later. Schools nationally, including ourselves, did not have prior knowledge or warning of the PM's announcement; we heard at the same time as everyone else. We were in a slightly more positive position than those schools which, up until 8pm, had been planning for a full return the next day, and also those which had children attend on Monday 4<sup>th</sup>, only to be told not to open the next day.

The scale and complexity of implementing the logistics of a partial school closure should not be underestimated - collating lists of key worker and vulnerable children; discussing with parents whose children can, will or should attend; organising staffing considering their medical, childcare and wellbeing needs; laying out classrooms for social distancing; planning remote education for those at home, and creating all new risk assessments.

Through all these challenges I have had the full support of the staff, senior leadership teams, parents/carers, and the community. Thank you – I am extremely grateful and fortunate to have such a team around me.

We have now confirmed our maximum capacity for key worker and vulnerable children at 22. We have already met this capacity as the uptake for places has been strong. This does not exclude you, if you are a key worker or your child is classed as vulnerable, from applying for a school place; we will facilitate provision for you if required, although this may be at one of our other Federation schools.

Our robust transmission prevention measures have been fully implemented. There have been some unwanted consequences of this – most notably the temperature! We must keep rooms ventilated at all times, however the air temperature in January is less than comfortable. We are running our heating during the day, as well as allowing children to wear coats and hats within school, and we have now introduced a slight relaxation of the uniform rules to allow children to wear warmer clothes.

Means tested Free School Meal children (not to be confused with Universal Free School Meals at EYFS and KS1) who are not attending school will receive food hampers delivered directly by Morrisons from next week, following a partnership being agreed by the MAT. We will ensure no child will go hungry through this time. If you think you may be eligible for FSM or are facing food poverty in anyway, please get in touch.

We are well aware of the reliance on technology for home learning. To alleviate this, we are sourcing new Chrome books to deliver to those children most in need. We have already distributed many of these with great success. If you are struggling with digital poverty or lack of devices or connectivity in your home, please get in touch.

Loneliness, boredom and stress can be enhanced by lockdown restrictions. Please do not suffer in silence; reach out for support if you require it. Contact numbers are included below.

The rest of the newsletter is dedicated to positivity and hope. We will find the silver lining in this crisis and strive through together.

Many thanks,

Mr A. Hill – Acting Head of School

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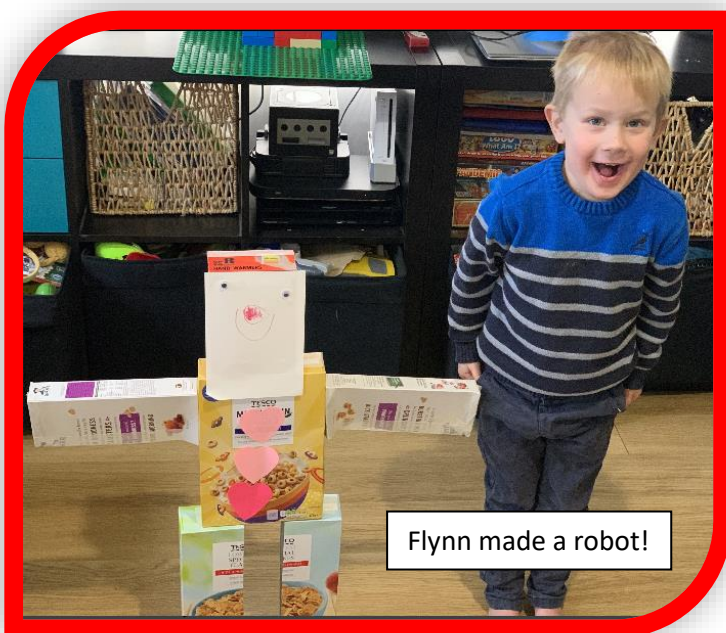
**What we have been up to:**



Evie has been out and about on her new bike!



Jacob and Arthur have been doing yoga



Flynn made a robot!



Austin has been colour - matching – great learning

Oscar and Jack have been using BBC Bitesize



The Floyd-Walker family have been experimenting with Ice and art



Felix, and his cat, have been working hard



Myla and Noah have been working together to create artwork

## **Anxiety UK**

Charity providing support if you have been diagnosed with an anxiety condition.

Phone: 03444 775 774 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5.30pm)

Website: [www.anxietyuk.org.uk](http://www.anxietyuk.org.uk)

## **CALM**

CALM is the Campaign Against Living Miserably. A charity providing a mental health helpline and webchat.

Phone: 0800 58 58 58 (daily, 5pm to midnight)

Website: [www.thecalmzone.net](http://www.thecalmzone.net)

## **Men's Health Forum**

24/7 stress support for men by text, chat and email.

Website: [www.menshealthforum.org.uk](http://www.menshealthforum.org.uk)

## **Mental Health Foundation**

Provides information and support for anyone with mental health problems or learning disabilities.

Website: [www.mentalhealth.org.uk](http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk)

## **Mind**

Promotes the views and needs of people with mental health problems.

Phone: 0300 123 3393 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm)

Website: [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)

## **Samaritans**

Confidential support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair.

Phone: 116 123 (free 24-hour helpline)

Website: [www.samaritans.org.uk](http://www.samaritans.org.uk)

## **Refuge**

Advice on dealing with domestic violence.

Phone: 0808 2000 247 (24-hour helpline)

Website: [www.refuge.org.uk](http://www.refuge.org.uk)

## **Relate**

The UK's largest provider of relationship support.

Website: [www.relate.org.uk](http://www.relate.org.uk)

## **Family Lives**

Advice on all aspects of parenting, including dealing with bullying.

Phone: 0808 800 2222 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 9pm and Saturday to Sunday, 10am to 3pm)

Website: [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

NSPCC

## **Helplines**

Help for adults concerned about a child

Call us on 0808 800 5000

Help for children and young people

Call Childline on 0800 1111