Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Firstly and most importantly I do hope you are all safe and well.

The longer this goes on the more and more we miss the children and normal life. We understand the challenges and difficulties being faced by all our families and I would like to reiterate that we are here for you. The phone will be answered and emails replied to. If you need us please get in touch. Also if you do hear of anyone particularly struggling, please let me know privately. Some are too proud to ask – please get in touch.

Hopefully this week or last you will have spoken to someone from school. I have continued to call families and the teachers are also catching up with families in their classes. In addition I have enjoyed seeing your home creations, particularly all our cards and gifts for the NHS workers isolated at Hotel Football – please keep the pictures coming. You can email them or Tweet directly @StHughPrimary. The teachers and staff are also updating their blogs weekly.

As the lockdown continues more and more home learning resources are being released and we are constantly updating links on the class blogs and homelearning page. The BBC this week launched a series of lessons on Bitesize and there are lots of good resources. However and as I stressed before please do not get 'bogged down' with it. Find the resources that work for your child and go with that. No one is going to fall behind too much and when we do return to school the teachers will ensure your children receive the love, guidance and academic support they need. Please do not put unnecessary stress on your children or yourselves. Remember little and often and be led by them, remembering all along to reassure them and provide love and lots of hugs. We will eventually get back to normal.

Many of you will be expert educators when we return and I know some of you have particularly enjoyed marjking my letters for grammar and spellong, I hope I have not disappointed this week!

There is still no news about when schools will reopen and how that will work. Please ignore all the silly speculation in some of the news; I will as always keep you fully informed.

For now please keep safe, keep well.

God bless

Mark Mountcastle