

29th March 2020

Dear Year 6

What a strange first week it's been. I would echo what Mrs Bennett said – it's all new for all of us, and takes some getting used to. I am adjusting to this new way of living – and remembering that it is temporary. I am thinking about ways to keep in touch with you all better and look at some of your work. Until I come up with a better way, do get your parents to email me with any questions you want to ask.

My family – my husband and two children – have all been home together this week. We have enjoyed spending time together, but it hasn't always been easy. We have been sharing lots of stories, watching films, going for walks and spending time in the garden. We have been grateful for the sunshine, as I'm sure you all have been! I have gone into school for two days this week to teach children who need to come to school. We have also been doing PE with Joe every morning. We have discovered that we seriously need to work on our fitness! If you haven't tried this daily workout yet, have a go! Something else we have been doing is reading. We have read lots every day. Scroll to the end of this letter for a great link to recommended reading books for your age group.

Again, I want to echo what Mrs Bennett has said about reassuring you and your parents that anything you are doing at home schooling-wise will be being useful, and to look after yourselves mentally and physically. Like Mrs Bennett, we have also been cooking with our children – although they are too young to take responsibility for cooking us dinner all by themselves. They enjoy stirring and tasting! I have also planted lots of seeds with them this week: sunflowers, black-eyed Susans, courgettes, squashes and tomatoes. They are all on our windowsills and some have already started sprouting. Have you been doing any cooking or gardening at home?

The lessons I have put on the school are to help you keep your minds active and to also help you learn some independent study skills which will be of great use to you next year. They are **not** there for you to feel pressured or worried about. This is a weird time, and it's okay to take a while to be okay with it! Work through the lessons at your own pace. The English ones can be done in

any order, but the maths ones need to be done in sequence so that you can build on your learning.

Mrs Bennett has put some fantastic links for learning in her letter. There should be more than enough there to keep you all amused and happy. I don't have much to add, but you might find these useful. One is a link to the KenKen sight, which uploads a maths puzzle a day. The other is the list of recommended reading books for Years 5 and 6 that I shared on the Curriculum letter a few weeks ago, but which you might find helpful to look at again now.

<http://www.kenkenpuzzle.com/>

<https://theteachingbooth.wordpress.com/2017/06/24/100-book-lists-for-primary-classroom/>

I will write again very soon! All the very best, I am thinking of you every day.

Mrs Hamilton