

13th November 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

On a day when the children are focussed on raising money for the children’s charity ***BBC*** ***Children in Need,*** I’ve been thinking about you. About what life is like for our families in a second lockdown, with primary aged children and I’d like to reach out to you to let you know how much the Ilsington team and I care about what you are all going through.

Sadly, I have been unable to offer coffee mornings, school workshops or parent’s evenings, I feel the absence of that natural friendly welcome into our school deeply and regret our not being able to make you feel more welcome on site.

As a school we are doing our best to provide a welcoming, safe, enjoyable learning experience for your children and I am so very glad that the children are not as badly affected by the Covid restrictions as they were earlier this year. However, I know that this really is a very difficult time for families in so many ways.

Within our own team there have been stories of sadness over not seeing loved ones, worries over vulnerable family members and the need to juggle child-care when class bubbles have been closed and the disappointment of cancelled special occasions.

Whilst we continue to provide the children with a happy, safe place to be with their friends and to learn together, I know that many of you don’t have the support around you that you might benefit from. I hope you know that the team and I are here for you to talk to. You can catch us on the gate or call to arrange a phone/virtual or face to face meeting and I am also attaching some useful weblinks that you might like to try if you are looking for expert support or to find parent groups in the area.

Please know that we are all thinking of you and sending you virtual hugs and our very best wishes for the weeks ahead and that we are all looking forward to different times when we can once more hold Christmas Fayres, Firework Nights, Summer Barbecues and more.

Kind regards from,

***Sam and the Ilsington Team***

See useful weblinks:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-suppport-children-families-parents/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

<https://www.annafreud.org/coronavirus-support/support-for-parents-and-carers/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

<https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/coronavirus-covid-19-update/support-for-parents-and-carers/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheLonelyParentsClub/>

<http://fis.torbay.gov.uk/kb5/torbay/fsd/service.page?id=XPfH8QHrHtY&familychannel=2>

Tissues and Issues – SEND parents club <http://fis.torbay.gov.uk/kb5/torbay/fsd/service.page?id=5hqTbkhVnKY>

Free online support for parents – Action online <https://advice.actionforchildren.org.uk/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIp8GU_-n-7AIVA_hRCh1hUQJJEAAYAyAAEgIuRfD_BwE>