

ABBAY ACADEMIES TRUST
Executive Headteacher: Mrs S J Moore

27th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I really do hope you are coping in these difficult and challenging times. It has been lovely to hear from so many of you with kind thoughts and updates. I, like you, have had some sad moments and am missing my family and friends that I can't see right now. I'm very lucky though, that each day at school I am surrounded (at a safe distance socially!) by wonderful colleagues honking together or receiving encouraging messages, and then, after school, I am going home to my son Alex who is home from University and it is very wonderful to have him at home with me.

I am in total awe of the many Keyworkers' children who have been in school with us showing such enthusiasm and positivity...and how amazing are those keyworkers in all their roles, especially of course, the front line NHS staff.

I am extremely proud of the courageous staff who have been in school during the last weeks with our Keyworkers' and vulnerable children, including during the holidays. Thank you also to the fabulous office staff, again from all three of our schools, for ensuring all the Reception 2020 parents and carers received the information they needed, at what must be a worrying time for them. Thank you to Michael Pateman and Jill Bates for coordinating the demolition of Kindergarten at Bourne Abbey during this quiet time in school. Heartfelt thank you to members of the Senior Leadership Team who have been supporting in school every week and for doing the things that are still carrying on behind the scenes.

I'm so grateful also to the teachers working at home, who have been preparing such fabulous learning and videos for our children at home. This really is such a brilliant team effort!

But I also wonder if anyone has thanked you, our fabulous parents and carers, for your invaluable part in this team effort. I absolutely appreciate and understand how hard it must be to home educate your own child/ren and that is why my letter comes to you today, not just as an Executive Headteacher, but also as a Mum. As we send more work home for your children this morning, we want to thank you for the fantastic job you are doing, often whilst trying to do your own job at home! It is also important though to remind you not to put too much pressure on yourselves and to actually enjoy this unique family time. We understand that some children will do all of the work but some may not, and this is absolutely ok!

So, today, just watch this amazing video sent to me as 'take care geese homework' by Amari in Year 3 at Bourne Elsea Park:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AsuVFqs4IOJ7yw2w8olvjrPVyIr8?e=IMMUFs>

Now that is the WOW Factor indeed and I hope it has reassured you that home education isn't just about maths and English. It is so much more!!!

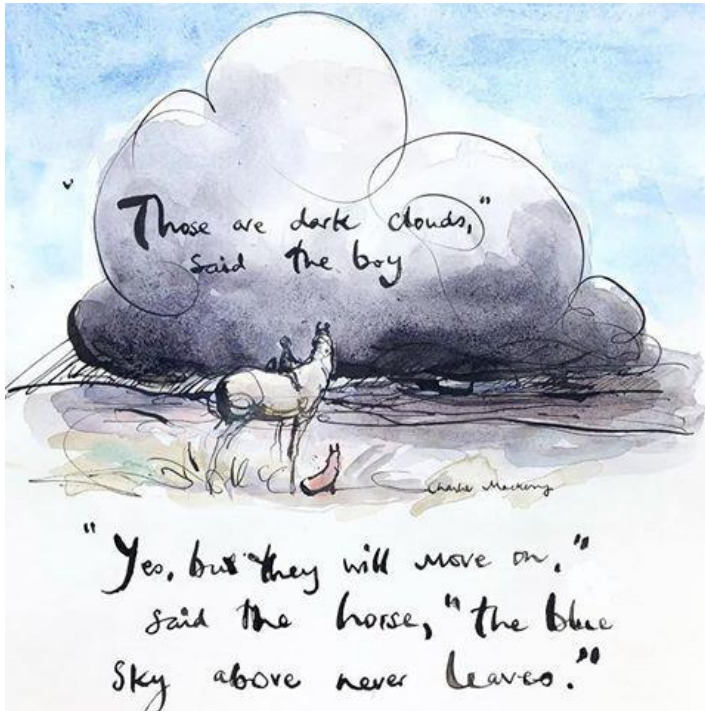
Sometimes words cannot describe how sad we may feel.

Sometimes words cannot describe the difficulties, fears and challenges we face.

Sometimes words are not enough to describe the joy that others bring into our hearts and lives.

So, hard as these times are, I'm still counting my blessings, as I'm sure you are too.

I wanted to share a couple of images a lovely teacher has sent me during this time. I think they will mean as much to you all as they have to me.



Take care and stay safe always.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sarah Moore
Executive Headteacher