



# Newsletter

## 3rd April 2020

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Week 2 of lockdown and closure complete—how are you all bearing up? We're still going at school: numbers of children coming in each day remain fairly low, anywhere between 0 and 6 at the moment. We're all committed to stay open for these children as much as we can and so far our staff are staying healthy and well, and are quite enjoying the fact that, by coming into school, they can get out of the house! Some members of staff are in isolation as a precautionary measure, and Miss Kasim Lowe has been poorly with non-Corona illness, but she's on the mend and is looking after herself.

It's really important to me that as a school family, we continue to **stay connected** during this lockdown period. At the moment, it probably just feels like an extra long Easter holiday for the children, but I think if this does stretch into the summer, then that will be an extraordinarily long period of time in a child's life. Staying connected, maintaining and developing friendships and relationships will be so important, especially when we start to prepare to return to school/our lives and routines. This week, to help us stay connected, I have asked staff to give families a quick call just to say hello and check in with you, and see how lockdown life is going! We're loving all your emails and tweets, sharing with us the things you're doing at home, so please do keep these coming. Every day, I update the website with photos that you've shared—maybe you could make it part of your day to have a look at Ms Soulsby's diary? You can find the updates here: <https://www.stjamesprimary.org.uk/children/school-closure-2020>.

I'm also becoming a bit of a Zoom geek—the staff are zooming each day now, just so we can stay connected, especially with our colleagues who are isolating, and it's just lovely to be invited into your class zooms— I'll be zooming with Robins and Whinchats later on today, can't wait! - and I'm having a think about how we could maybe set up a zoom for the wider school family. If you'd like to be involved in a school zoom, please email [office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk](mailto:office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk) with your email address, when I've worked it all out and have a date/time I will then email you with an invitation for you to join in.



Staying connected being a theme for this week's newsletter, I was sent an email this week from one of our grandads, Peter Applewhite. He often sends me snippets of local history, especially stories linked to the school. This week he sent me a postcard written by an ex teacher of the school, Florence Hebbes, at Easter 1906, which got me thinking—this school has been here for a long time, and has witnessed some incredibly challenging times and events (wars, Great Depression, flu pandemics) and it's got through all of those and continues to thrive. Just like then, we will get through this challenging time and we will thrive and be stronger!

My 'Soulsby Special Task' this week is for children to send their own postcards, either to someone they know (a friend) or someone they don't know (maybe a NHS worker or someone living in a Care Home?) to just simply say hello and brighten their day. Please do send us photos of your cards before posting. And maybe, in 100 years another local history buff will find your postcard and be as intrigued by your life as Peter is about Florence. (Hope you're staying well, Peter!)

Take care everyone, we miss you all!

Thoughts, prayers and much love,

Maria & all the St James' team





