

# ACKLAM WHIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Preparing our children for their future.”

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Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all well and you are keeping safe during the lockdown.

If you haven't seen it, we have uploaded our heart-warming Thank You NHS & Key Worker video onto YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/cu6eFuQjxHo>

With over 200 of the Acklam Whin Family involved, it was a pleasure putting it all together and I'd like to thank you all for your contributions and feedback of the film. We are so proud of you all and have shared the film with the South Tees Trust as well as to a range of local agencies and news outlets – we would ask if you could do the same.

As you are aware our staff are uploading a range of weekly activities for children to work on at home. The government guidance suggested 2 or 3 hours a day of work would be good in these circumstances; we think that would be a miracle! We are not setting any guidance to say how much work you should be doing at home – please try and do what you can. **You do NOT have to complete everything – what is most important is that you build a routine, use any of the materials we are sharing if you can and above all, enjoy this time with your children.** And do not forget, we are here for any support or advice. Either give us a call or email the teachers directly – their addresses are on the school class pages.

I really want to reassure parents, those children who are not able to attend school at the moment are not 'behind'. Like all schools nationally, we are now providing childcare. The small number of children who do attend, are accessing the home working materials that our 'home' pupils are using. The activities and the online resources we have subscribed to are there to support you whilst children are asked to remain at home. These can be supplemented with as much reading, playing of board games, model making, baking (if you can get hold of any flour), playing in the garden, gardening, helping with household jobs, building with Lego, Duplo, Mecca no, K-nex, drawing, painting, listening to music, watching TV (the BBC have a great range of programmes), keeping a diary, keeping fit (is everyone keeping up with Joe Wicks?), colouring in, helping with meal prep, and keeping bedrooms tidy, to name but a few. The BBC have produced an excellent Parent's Toolkit with advice about working at home and supporting your child's wellbeing. It is part of their excellent Bitesize and Daily Lessons and is worth a read - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/znsmyxc>

We know that you will be concerned about where your child is at with their learning, we know you may be concerned about 'falling behind'. Please remember this is a national issue, children all across the country are being asked to stay at home. When the time comes, when it is safe to do so, we will get back on track. We will support every one of our children to make sure that they have the knowledge, skills and understanding they need. Right now, there is no 'behind' or 'ahead'. Please be assured that any work you are doing at home is invaluable, challenging at times most probably, but completely invaluable and very much appreciated by everyone at Acklam Whin. Thank you for the time and effort you are putting into this.

**Just as important as all of the above is, our children also need time to chill, to play, to catch up with friends and family online or over the phone if at all possible and just be themselves.**

Staff are still available for contact and we urge you to keep in touch either via email or via our social media. Do not forget you can see our Friday assemblies, Mr Jackson's PE Challenges and much much more on our Twitter and Facebook feeds @Acklamwhin.



*“There is a positive safeguarding culture at your school. The leadership team, staff and governors share the ambition to achieve the best academic outcomes for pupils and to provide high-quality personal development and welfare for pupils”.*

We have loved seeing the children's updates via social media and from the emails you have been sending in about the routines, timetables, and artwork you have created. Please keep them coming, the children will be missing school, their friends, their teachers and obviously, we are all missing them too.

**School continues to be open for children of Key Workers only. As soon as the situation changes, and we are informed by the Government – we will let you know.**

**If you would like to contact us for any support or advice, please call 01642 813938 or email [awcontact@acklamwhin.co.uk](mailto:awcontact@acklamwhin.co.uk) or my mobile is 07538630364 if you need to contact me in an emergency.**

Be safe, be strong and remember – we are right behind you. Apart but not alone.

Keep well and we wish you and your families all the very best. We will all keep going.

Mr Gamble and the whole Acklam Whin Family

#stayhomesavelives

