

Dear Welton Family,

Trying to find the words to describe the month of November led to the Latin translation in google as I felt we needed some stronger words; it has been truly “*terribilis est mensis*”. In a letter to staff last week I expressed that it was most certainly a two-quote moment:

“I think probably kindness is my number one attribute in a human being. I’ll put it before any of the things like courage, or bravery, or generosity, or anything else... Kindness—that simple word. To be kind—it covers everything, to my mind. If you’re kind that’s it.” —Roahl Dahl

“That is what compassion does. It challenges our assumptions, our sense of self-limitation, worthlessness, of not having a place in the world, our feelings of loneliness and estrangement. These are narrow, constrictive states of mind. As we develop compassion, our hearts open.” —Sharon Salzberg

At one point in November over half of the school was self-isolating and this was a stark reminder of the challenges we are facing as a community. These challenges have also led to great fortitude within the Welton Family and we should thank and celebrate the way in which our school family rose to these challenges. The support the children have received for their remote learning from those at home has been outstanding. We appreciate how difficult it is to support home learning, work from home and carry the burden of keeping loved ones safe.

All the members of the Welton family have continued to spend each day learning and developing during their self-isolation, this has included our youngest children who have provided many, many smiles though the photographs parents have uploaded onto their profiles. Please accept our gratitude, we know this has not been easy.

Looking forward to the next three weeks, we have a single aim: all the children to remain in school, learning and thriving until the end of term. As it has been pointed out in the media, any families self-isolating after the 10th December will not be able to have other people into their homes on Christmas Day. Therefore, it is time to strengthen our resolve and work together to prevent further closures of classes and bubbles. There are things we can all do to contribute to the success of this aim:

1. **Wear a mask**
2. **Wash your hands** (use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available)
3. **Keep a safe distance** (stay at least 2 metres (3 steps) away from anyone you do not live)

In addition, we would request that you keep the school bubbles apart outside of school in the parks and green areas, that you maintain the 2-metre distance when waiting to drop off and collect children and wear a mask on the school run. Feedback from public health during the recent closures suggests strengthening these measures will have a positive effect.

Also, there will be a rule of “no Christmas cards or presents sent into school”. We have already received a suggestion from a parent for a gesture of thankfulness for our community in lieu of cards and presents, if you have a suggestion please email to sbm@weltonprimaryschool.com

Finally, as a school community, we thank you for your support this term, the partnership and family spirit of Welton is why we have got through this despite the expected ups and downs along the way.

Just in case we need reminding why we dedicate our lives to our young people, here is a reminder:

You are my, I love you

I am your parent, you are my child

I am your quiet place; you are my wild

I am your calm face, you are my giggle

I am your wait, you are my wiggle

I am your audience, you are my clown

I am your open arms, you are my running leap

I am your bedtime; you are my wide awake

I am your praying hands, you are my saving grace

I am your nightlight, you are my sunshine

I am your lullaby, you are my peek-a-boo

I am your kiss goodnight, you are my I love you

Maryann Cusimano

With kindest regards

Mrs Nikki Pidgeon