



Strange Times! A message from Mr. Rix

I would imagine that, like me, you are currently in a whirl of worry, puzzlement and incredulity over the events of the last week. Isn't it amazing that life can continue to throw things at you that are beyond your experience and could never have been envisioned? Though I have worked with people my entire working life they still manage to disappoint and amaze and inspire me in equal measure.

Your children have been incredible. During our daily assemblies where we have discussed the virus and tried to understand together what it is, how the government are responding and why, and the part we all have to play to keep everyone safe, they have shown their sensitivity, resilience, thoughtfulness and sense of humour. You must be very proud of them.

We do appreciate the frustration that our year 6 must be feeling. They have worked so hard and now will not be able to enjoy the challenge of the SATs tests. They will have plenty of chances during their time in secondary education to sit tests and exams.

As we now partially close our doors—and we do not yet know for how long—we fully appreciate the emotion and anxiety that must be with the children. Be aware that their initial excitement will wear thin very quickly. They are probably thinking of the freedom of summer holidays when the reality will be very different. You may witness some mood swings and tantrums as the frustration of the situation becomes reality. Please do not get into a row about the work set—be flexible and make it fun.

What your child needs right now is to feel comforted and loved. To feel like it is all going to be okay. That might mean that you need to tear up the timetable on some days and focus on giving them lots of love and attention. I appreciate this may be difficult if you have the added pressure of trying to work at home with the children there. Please try to make this time memorable; cook and eat together, make camps, watch movies under blankets, go for walks outside, create fitness challenges, do some messy art. Make learning fun through play.

Don't worry about their learning regressing. Teachers will make sure they catch up and everyone else is in the same situation. This is an extraordinary event that will live with your child probably their entire lives. Their mental health is far more important than academic success.

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Talking with staff today during our briefing, I was filled with pride and overwhelmed at their willingness to provide all they can for your children and give up their time over the Easter break to ensure the children of key workers are cared for, so they can carry on with their vital tasks. Each of us has a loved one we are worried about. So let's all stay safe, care for each other and come through this stronger.

Well done to our Maths Stars—the last for a while! Lucca, Jayzack, Haydn, Sophie, Amy & Abbi

