



Margaret McMillan Primary School

Inspiration • Aspiration • Determination

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Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems very strange to be sending a newsletter to you all at this challenging time, but I wanted to touch base with you all after 4 weeks of lockdown.

The main thing I want to say is – **Thank you**. Such a small word that I hardly think it does justice to the strength of my gratitude. I would like to start by thanking each and every one of you for the tremendous work you have done in these challenging circumstances and recognise that what you have been asked to do is not easy. I am proud of the way our whole Margaret McMillan community has pulled together in the most challenging of times.

Vulnerable children and those of critical workers have been attending our Education Hub and are a real credit to their families and themselves. We have also welcomed staff and children from Lilycroft Primary – one of our Priestley Academy Trust partner schools. It serves to remind those of us who are lucky enough to be in school – what a joy and a privilege our job is.

Thank you to all of those parents who are working so hard in their wide-ranging Critical worker roles, helping our society to still function and supporting us all.

To all of you at home with your children I want to say a huge thank you for all you are doing. We know that this is a difficult and challenging situation. The most important thing is that you spend time with your children, have fun, reassure them and keep them safe.

MMPS at home

Thank you to all of our staff who have been producing work, activities and finding websites to support the mums and dads struggling at home to keep their children occupied. They have made some wonderful videos of themselves reading stories – we hope the children will love seeing and hearing their teachers and it that it reassures and gives just a small moment of normality for them.

Check out the “**MMPS at home**” section school website. It is organised into year groups and contains activities and work for your child to do at home. This will be updated weekly.

Our teachers are working on homeworking “mats” that will be uploaded weekly onto our website. There is one for literacy, topic and science (1 sheet) and a separate one for maths. There are 2 mats per year group each week. For maths we are focusing on a learn by heart skill per week - number bonds, time tables etc - and activities



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surrounding them. This is to keep things as simple as possible for parents and so the children can do these activities independently without the need for lots of resources. These will also be uploaded weekly.

In addition, our Weduc and twitter feeds also contain fun activities that your children might be interested in. We update this feed daily. WE DO NOT EXPECT PARENTS/CHILDREN TO COMPLETE IT ALL. **Do as much or as little as you feel your children need and you can manage. Spend time playing with them and reassuring them.**

We know that you will have children of different ages at home and this will make learning tricky. We understand that many of you are also trying to juggle home working. And we know that most of you will not have access to a printer or multiple laptops and tablets. We do not expect you to be the teacher - we do not expect you to spend each and every day "teaching" your children. If you are working from home, direct them to activities that they can do on their own. Involve them in home jobs – cooking, gardening etc. Keeping a routine, and having set times for breakfast, bedtime etc. will also help them and they will be much more ready for school when it starts again.

All of the home working activities are there to help – please don't feel that you have to fill your day with school work and don't feel that you have to do it all. Choose to do what you feel comfortable with. In order to keep up to date with the latest school news, please download and check Weduc or follow our school twitter account, our twitter handle is @MMPS_Bradford The latest tweets are also displayed on the home page of our website. There is also an **Information for parents** section which contains useful links to advice and help during this school closure period.

BBC resources

BBC bitesize and CBBC have also produced a range of high-quality lessons and activities to help support home learning. These can be accessed via tablets, laptops, smartphones or the television red button.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

The Oak National Academy

The government has launched a website which contains daily maths, English and curriculum lessons linked to each year group for parents to access. Again, we do not want you to feel required or pressurised to do so.

<https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom>

The Government also has a link to offer advice to parents <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Farewell from Mrs Iqbal

Mrs Iqbal is leaving Margaret McMillan at the end of the month to take up a post as a SEN advisor for the Local Authority. We wish her all the best and know she will be fabulous in her new role. She has sent the following message to all of you;

"I just wanted to say a huge thankyou to all the staff, parents governors and especially the children for making the last 9 years at Margaret McMillan Primary school so special and memorable. I have had the opportunity to meet and get to know so many of you and for that I am truly grateful. Margaret McMillan is an amazing school and I am going to miss you all so dearly. I wish you all the best for the future. When the situation improves and school reopens I will come in and say goodbye properly. Stay safe and Happy Ramadan to those of you who are observing. Mrs Iqbal."

We are missing our pupils, their families and our own staff team greatly- however we know this time is necessary to help flatten the curve and we are sure it will make the reunion more of an occasion to look forward to once schools reopen (hopefully in the not-too distant future.)

As teachers, we will be able to get your children back on track when they return to us. That's our job – it's what we do. In order to make that job easier we need you need to do help them stay happy and calm so their brains will be ready for learning when they return. Be kind to yourselves and your children, and we will get through this.

Finally, for those of you who celebrated, I hope you had a good Easter, and to all of you who are celebrating Ramadan I wish you Ramadan Mubarak.

From all of the MMPS staff team,
Look after yourselves and Stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Lorraine Martin
Headteacher