

Friday 24th April 2020

Dear all the families of Nursling C of E Primary School,

So here we are in the middle of this very strange time, the numbers seem to be coming down, the end of lockdown maybe in sight. We long for things to get back to normal. We wonder if life will ever be the same? So how will we look back on this time? What will we tell our children of how we responded?

I have seen wonderful local initiatives where people are supporting each other. Schools remaining open to support children. Teachers putting themselves in harms way to keep things going. Parents trying to keep families on track, to educate their children to hold it all together. On the whole the community has seemed to respond well, even when we know that so many of our loved ones are putting themselves in the front line to care and support others. The increased sense of community has been a real blessing.

At an individual level it's interesting to recognise how this is affecting us as people. It's tiring in a way that you don't expect. This seems to me because of the sense of threat that you feel to be constantly under. When outside you have to watch each person coming towards you to make sure they are keeping their distance. If you touch anything when you are out you wonder if it might possibly have the virus on its surface. Arriving home there's the need to wash hands immediately. Lots of people have reported more vivid dreams as if our brains are struggling to process what's going on. Waking up is hard to do after disturbed nights.

I have spoken to local folk, some of our teachers, healthcare staff and parents. They are finding things exhausting. There are so many more people to call or contact than you will ever have time to reach. Each day is made up of decisions about how to spend time. It seems that we have to make it all up as we go. There is no precise pattern or model to follow to navigate through this particular storm. We have done our best and there has been lots of encouraging feedback as we try to support each other. We have done our best, that's all we can ask.

Jesus gave us three commands. To love God, love one another and love those around us. If we manage to do this, to be people of love and support, in this strange and difficult time then we may well be able to look back with pride.

Graeme,

Rev Graeme Dixon
Vicar of the parish of Nursling with Rownhams