

Dear Year 4 children, parents and carers,

I hope you are all ok and keeping each other safe, healthy and happy at home.

It's been lovely to receive your emails and photos – watch out for them appearing on the school Facebook page soon!

I am sending this out tonight as I will be working in school on Monday and Tuesday in our childcare hub (and so will also apologise if it takes me a little longer than usual to reply to any emails over the next few days).

Mrs Biggins wanted to send a message to you all too:

Hello Year 4

I hope you're all well and enjoying the lovely weather. I really enjoyed seeing all your pictures on Facebook showing your decorated eggs. I hope you got lots of Easter eggs and did lots of lovely things with your families. I miss seeing all your lovely smiles and listening to your stories about what you have been up to. I have been keeping busy at home with Rebecca and Ella. Rebecca has been baking lots of gluten free goodies and I'm going to try baking some bread. Carry on working hard but most of all enjoy your time with your family and I'm counting down the days until we can all be at school together again.

Mrs Biggins

Thank you so much to everyone who has been in touch this week via email to let me know how you have been getting on at home or to share photos of some of the work and many other brilliant things that you have been up to.

I can see from www.spag.com that many of you have completed the online tasks over the week, I've been sent photos of work and other things that have been keeping you busy as well as just had people (both adults and children) getting in touch to catch up and have a chat – it's been really lovely!

Within Year 4, children and families are learning about all kinds of different things that interest them at home. People are cooking and baking with families, working on practising different hobbies and skills, have been planting flowers and vegetables and watching how they grow, helping out with jobs around the house and taking care of animals. It seems like lots of you are finding fun and productive ways to spend your time together.

I also know that things can be more difficult at times for other families: Key workers are still going out to be our frontline heroes, adults are working to keep businesses going, some people have been furloughed or may be facing other types of job insecurity, financial difficulties may be making you worry, some are being expected to work from home while caring for children (which may include different ages & abilities etc.), ill health may be affecting some people and others may be supporting extended family members who are

older, vulnerable or shielding in the best way you can... and you are all facing additional pressures such as these on top of the 24 hour / 7 days a week challenges of caring for the people within your household!

I wanted to acknowledge the pressures and difficulties that some of you may find yourselves under at the moment, as well as in the weeks and months ahead. If there is anything that I (or school) may be able to do to help than please contact us – even if it may be just to offload to someone else if things are particularly challenging at certain points.

As I continue to send work suggestions home, please understand that these are only suggestions and to choose (or not!) the best ways to use these for your child. I will link them to work we have done in school previously or send out support materials etc. for particular topic areas. 'Home Learning' cannot ever be the same as classroom based teaching, and so there needs to be ways to be flexible and adapt it to meets the needs of your family – and at times, that may be a case of taking the pressure of yourselves and abandoning it completely! There are so many other things that families are choosing to spend time doing at the moment that is vital and useful and you need to continue with whatever these are that meet your needs at that particular time.

As with previous messages, if you would like to get in touch or send photos etc. of work, it is best to start at new email with your child's name as the subject header to make it easier to respond to you individually.

Take care of each other and stay safe and healthy,

Miss Merritt