



Dear Parents/Carers,

26.1.21

I wanted to write to you this week to say a huge well done to you all!

We are just 3 weeks into this lockdown and we know that it has been a struggle this time, more than ever, having to combine childcare, education and your own work and responsibilities. We want you to know that we appreciate everything that you are doing, and want to reassure you that surviving this pandemic is the most important thing right now!

We know that we have high expectations and that we have set a lot of work – please don't worry too much about that – do what you can and do the best you can when you do! We've spoken to lots of you and know you're doing a great job in supporting your children – we're happy to help whenever we can!

If you have a day off to play games or go to the beach or build a snowman, enjoy your day (and send us a photo)! All families are different and some will finish the work set, some will do more and some will do less – try to read and keep up with number bonds or times tables each day – we appreciate you will do what your circumstances allow.

Whilst we are 'closed' to most children, we are still here for you all. We're happy to take your call and help you with anything else we can.

I also wanted to share some interesting news with you, and possibly ask for your help. Please see below for more information!

Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Dunn



Some interesting news...

You will remember that our trim trail has been condemned and needs to be replaced... We are in the process of getting quotes for some new trim trail-like equipment and know that this could be anywhere between £6,000 and £12,000 depending on what we finally choose, and how much money can be raised.

Last term we were fortunate enough to receive £600 from the family of Eileen Teasdale. Eileen sadly passed away but had been a pupil at Hesleden School in the 1940s, as had her husband, brother and later, her son. Eileen's family thought that she would like to remember her old school and made the donation in her memory. We are awaiting delivery of two giant play tubes and a new playground equipment shed as part of her legacy. We have written to thank Eileen's son for their generosity and promise to send pictures of the loose parts in use.

At the beginning of this term, Eileen's son, Keith, contacted us to say that Eileen's brother had also sadly died and that his family had also chosen to make his legacy a donation to his former school. Imagine our surprise when we discovered that Eileen's brother was Colin Bell, former Manchester City and England football legend!



We had recently discovered that Colin had attended Hesleden School from newspaper articles reporting on his death, but had no idea of the impact this was to have. We have been able to send the family information from our old school records about both Eileen and Colin's attendance and behaviour records!

We are planning to create a display of articles and photographs we can find, to share with the children. We hope they can be involved in enjoying the history of former pupils and appreciating the generosity of their families in their memory. We hope to involve the local press at some point in the near future.



We will be using Colin's legacy, whatever that maybe, as a starting point for our fundraising for the trim trail and outdoor equipment so children will be able to benefit from this for years to come. We will keep you updated on our progress!

Can you help?

Although we will fundraise for our new equipment, we want to keep the other costs to a minimum. Unfortunately, our old trim trail needs to be removed and we were hoping that there might be a volunteer or two out there, with some experience of similar work, who might be able to help.

If you know of anyone who might be prepared to help, with the necessary skills and tools, we'd love to hear from you. We've been advised to get the old posts removed as soon as we can.

Thank you!