**Message to all of the children at West Heath Primary School – 20th March 2020**

Dear Children.

Over the last few days I have sent many messages to your parents. Now I would like to share a letter with you.

Over the last few days some of you have already had to miss school because of the coronavirus. Your parents have had to keep you at home as part of keeping everyone safe. For many of you today will have been your last day at school for a long time. When you come back lots of things may have changed. It won’t be Spring anymore. You might even come back to find yourselves in the next year group. There might be new teachers and new friends to get to know. BUT … lots and lots of things won’t have changed. Your school grown-ups will carry on thinking about you every single day. We will laugh at the funny things you have done, and will wonder if you are still getting better at your handwriting and times tables. Your teachers will want to hear all about the books you have read and enjoyed! We hope that you will continue to do the very important job we have given you to help stop the spread of the coronavirus - **KEEP WASHING YOUR HANDS!**

While you are away from school please keep working hard with the homework your teacher sends every day. I hope you enjoy the exciting things they have planned for you.

We will keep on loving you even though we won’t be able to see you every day for a while. I want to tell you some important things:

1. Don’t be frightened. You may hear some things that you are worried about, but these are not worries for you. Tell someone you trust about your worry and let them look after it for you.

2. The children who are coming back to school next week, and in the weeks to come, are not more special than you. They need some extra help for a while - their parents can’t stay at home with them because they are doing some really important jobs right now to help our country cope with the virus and to keep everyone safe.

3. There are some good things happening in amongst the bad things. There is less air travel and, as a result, the environment is getting a bit of a rest, and, who knows, maybe we can work out new and better ways of doing things in the future because we have had to.

4. People are talking to each other and are offering to help each other more. That is a very good thing, please make sure you do that too. Be kind, helpful and generous in the days ahead. Please don’t argue with your brothers and sisters!

5. Even though you will be missing some school, you can still learn and try your best at everything you do. Remember to always use your values!

6. Make time to exercise every day and practice the Muscle Song and the Hakka! You need to keep yourself fit and healthy!

**You are a very special group of children**. So, yesterday, while we said goodbye to each other for a while, please keep singing, playing, making, drawing, writing, problem-solving, dancing and learning about our amazing world. We are having an adventure and, like all real adventurers, we have to be brave.

Please be careful!

**Mrs Hooper, all your teachers and all the staff at West Heath Primary School**