

Dear Students and Families

I hope you are all keeping well and looking after each other. It is a very difficult time and as yet we do not know when we will be starting back at school. Thank you to all of you who are following some of the challenges set for you at home. I hope you are having fun! I know it is not the same as being in school but we will all get through this time and soon be back into our school routines. Thank you to all our parents who have supported you so well during this time.

I am immensely proud of our community at Elms Bank. Students, parents and staff have all embraced the situation with positivity and supported us over the last few weeks. Parents have been hugely supportive; our staff and the senior leadership team led by Mrs Langley-Sadler have given energy, passion and time to make this new way of learning work; and our students have been a credit to Elms Bank.

I will also encourage you to get involved in the Virtual Choir. Many thanks to all of you who have been involved in sending your videos singing 'True Colours' and 'Stand By Me'. It has been a great media success. As Mrs Langley Sadler has said in her letter, we are releasing a charity single next week – 'Ain't No Mountain!' Please join this and send in your video, you will be brilliant! It is important at this time to unite our community and to keep our community spirit alive. It has been inspirational listening to the videos already produced and also seeing all our choir on television. I know I am going to have to get practising and join in!! I am immensely proud of the money raised for the NHS charities by Elms Bank families, friends and staff through our Just Giving page. Many thanks to you all. Please contribute if you are able to do.

Living in lockdown can be stressful and we know that you will be missing socialising and meeting up with your friends. You may also be worried about people in your family. I know your Form Tutor or Pastoral Staff have been keeping in touch and hope that you have found this communication helpful. We are here to help you and talk to you at school if you need to do so- students and parents.

As you will know from Mrs Langley-Sadler's letter we are currently open to students of two key workers in the family and also to students who require specific support during this period. If you are not coming into school and feel you need more support again, please get in touch. We are here to help you and support you.

Please take care of yourselves and stay safe.

My very best wishes

*E. J. Parkinson*

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