



16.1.2021

Dear parents/carers,

I do hope you are well and are handling the many additional challenges we are all facing right now. I know life is tough for people in many different ways.

I hope too you are managing to find little pleasures where you can – playing a board game with the children, enjoying an online workout or puzzling over who the masked singer is. If being outside is important to you and your children then please note that the RSPB are running their Big Garden Birdwatch between January 29 and 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested then please see the link:

[https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/?sourcecode=BWMITH0230&channel=paidsearch&gclid=EAlaIqobChMlvN-UnKab7gIV0evtCh0UPgNKEAAYASAAEgKbYPD\\_BwE](https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/?sourcecode=BWMITH0230&channel=paidsearch&gclid=EAlaIqobChMlvN-UnKab7gIV0evtCh0UPgNKEAAYASAAEgKbYPD_BwE)

### **Remote Learning**

Thank you for all the many lovely messages you have been sending to the staff regarding remote learning provision. The staff team are working incredibly hard and it makes a real difference to them to know their efforts are appreciated.

I know some of you are really enjoying home learning with your child-we are so pleased. I understand how very hard you will be working at home to do this – being a parent is a very different role to being a teacher. Juggling multiple children or work at the same time is particularly difficult too. Please know you are not alone. Do contact your teacher if you are struggling with the work load or prioritising – we are still here for the children and want every child in our school to engage with us daily until we can be together on site again.

### **Primary Assessments**

The Government has said it will not require primary schools to undertake SATS assessments this year and it will not create league tables. We will undertake assessments at the end of terms as usual so we are able to use this information to support planning and share information on your child with you through the end of year reports.

As a school we will work hard to support all children with learning when we return to school and catch-up on lost time though the positive use of the catch-up fund and tutoring – please see the catch-up fund document on the website. Brilliantly, we were able to use some of the catch-up fund to support children in Y2 with phonics when we were at school in Autumn Term. These phonic word skills are crucial in children reading with independence and pleasure. We were delighted that we had a 95% pass rate on the Phonic Screening when the children undertook it in December (they missed doing it when they were in Y1 due to Lockdown). The children should feel really proud for working so hard. Huge thanks go to Mrs Bedwell and Miss Smith who led & ran the interventions and all the wonderful parents who worked together with the staff team.

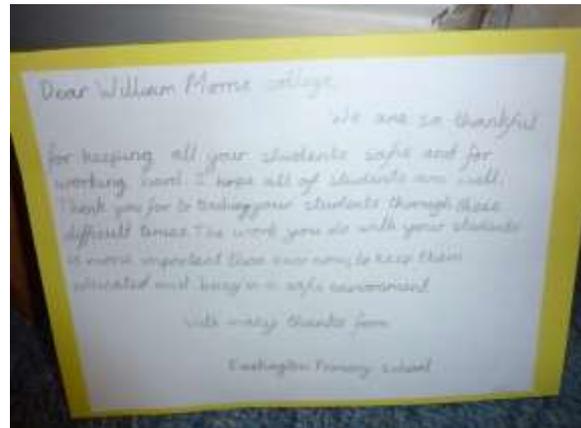
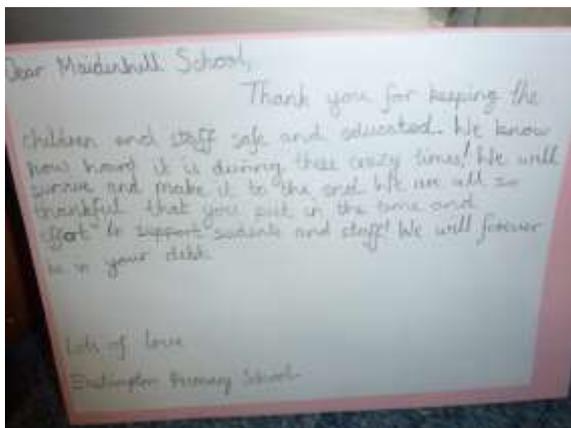
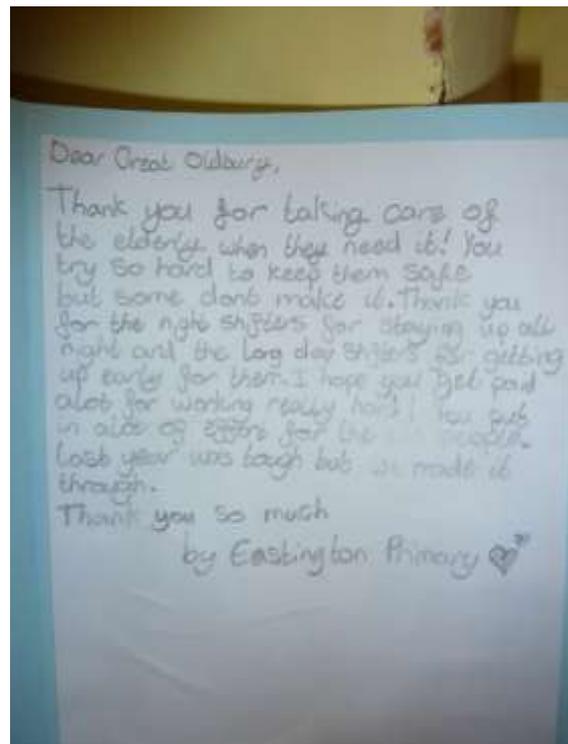
### **Asymptomatic Testing in Primary Schools**

DfE have said they want to introduce testing of asymptomatic staff in primary schools. LA suggested this would begin in February but it might begin earlier. We are awaiting further guidance. We will not be undertaking testing on children - if we are asked to do this I will write to parents/carers in advance with more information.

### **Give**

'Giving' is one of the five ways of well-being we have explored over this year. The children in school have made some cards and written some lovely messages to critical workers who are in our locality. They thought carefully about what they wanted to say – they did a brilliant job.





We will send the cards, with some chocolate treats, after we have self-isolated them. A fantastic job children – I'm sure you will elicit many a smile.

Take good care of yourself and your loved ones,

Zoe Avastu  
Headteacher